



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

**Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast**

Hearing: Wednesday, 28 February 2024

**Answers due by:** Tuesday, 26 March 2024

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

Phone (02) 9230 2809

[BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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

#### WATER

##### Regional Water Strategies

- (1) How have we lost a year or more in the development of the Murray and Murrumbidgee regional water strategies?
- (2) In October 2023, the Department released a Webinar, along with the same discussion paper and modelling released in 2022, inviting feedback again, with the outcomes to be released in early 2024, and a shortlist of options to be released at an undefined date beyond that. Has Department released the of the October-November 2023 community consultation (ie. not the 2022 What we heard report)?
- (3) The webinar released by DPE in October 2023 refers to additional modelling used for assessing options for shortlisting. Was this additional modelling made available for the purpose of seeking feedback? Or is this modelling for internal Departmental purposes only?
- (4) How is the development of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategies being resourced?
  - (a) What budget is allocated to develop these strategies?
  - (b) How many staff are working on them?

##### Southern Basin Floodplain Management Plans

- (5) Can you please confirm coverage of the Mirrool Creek in either the Lachlan or Murrumbidgee Floodplain Management plans currently under review?

##### NSW Alternative to Buybacks Plan

- (6) Referring to your joint Media Release with Minister Plibersek of 27 February regarding an additional \$115 million dollars in funding for SDLAMs. Of the five Coalition projects mentioned in the media release, can you please summarise any progress in the year since Labor came to Government, as none is evident on the Department web site?
- (7) Minister, can you please clarify the status of the Yanco Creek Offtake project? In your Alternatives to Buybacks Plan it was discontinued, this was reflected on the Department

web site at that time. As of 27 and 29 February, the Department web site now says it will be rescoped. When questioned in Budget Estimates, Amanda Jones of DCCEEW again said it was discontinued. Which is it?

- (8) If dropped, what are the expected budget savings from dropping this project?
- (9) If continuing, the Alternative to Buybacks Plan says the Yanco Offtake project “cannot deliver an SDL benefit.” What new information have you received since Thursday 22 February?
- (10) Can you advise what additional amount of water will be saved by the additional \$115 million dollars in funding over that originally projected at the inception of these Coalition projects? Would it be enough, for example, to make up for the Commonwealth’s 18 GL shortfall in its ‘closing the gap’ buyback last year?
- (11) Given that you’ve had a year since coming to Government, how long until we see some Labor initiatives in addressing either the 605 GL target or the 450 GL of additional environmental water?
- (12) The Murrumbidgee Optimisation Project is an initiative of Murrumbidgee Irrigation and Coleambally Irrigation in response to the Commonwealth’s call for ideas in May 2023. It’s a proposal that was offered to the Commonwealth by them, not by the NSW Government. It is not clear in the Alternatives to Buybacks Plan - does the Government support this proposal?
- (13) Apart from the Murrumbidgee Optimisation Project and the rescoping of existing projects, is the Department currently assessing any projects or programs to contribute to either the 605 GL SDLAM target or the 450 GL additional environmental water target in the Murray Darling Basin Plan?
- (14) Is the \$115 million dollars referred to in the Media Release entirely Commonwealth funds? If so, is there additional NSW funding required for the five projects?
- (15) Minister, is it correct that the only new Government initiatives contained in the Alternative to Buybacks Plan are to discontinue one existing project, say you’ll rethink another existing project, and you’ll investigate rules-based changes?
- (16) Minister, where does this Alternative to Buybacks Plan add value to either the Commonwealth (its apparently intended audience) or to the management water in NSW?

- (17) There is nothing new in this Plan, but you plan to work with stakeholders to identify new projects. Noting that new or amended projects need the agreement by all basin Governments by mid-2025, what will you do if they are rejected?
- (18) In November, the Minister mentioned the Better Baaka and Better Bidgee programs, and the Menindee Lakes project would be rescoped, the Yanco Creek offtake has now been dropped. Is there anything else within this rescoping work?
- (a) How is this rescoping work being resourced?
  - (b) Have more staff been assigned to the rescoping work?
  - (c) Is there a timeframe to complete the rescoping of Menindee and anything else in these programs?
  - (d) How do you anticipate the rescoped works will affect the budget?
  - (e) Do you anticipate a substantial increase in the budget will be required for these projects? Or a substantial decrease?
  - (f) As we've established the Government has not at this stage identified any new initiatives, can you advise if the Department is currently assessing any new projects whatsoever for addressing the 605 GL SDLAM target or the 450 GL additional environmental water target?
  - (g) If so, when will any of these projects ready to be progressed now or will we have to wait a year or two for feasibility studies?

### **Urban Demand Management**

- (19) In 2022 and 2023, Sydney Water, Hunter Water and DPE piloted inefficient washing machine replacement for social housing tenants, a pool cover rebate, and a Hydraloop trial for reusing greywater at any scale. Noting the Hydraloop trial is ongoing, what were the outcomes of these other pilots?
- (20) Are any of these progressing to program implementation?
- (21) Apart from the Water Conservation Plans of these two State owned Corporations, and BASIX which addresses new development only, are there any programs addressing urban water management at the demand side?

- (a) Through BASIX we regulate water efficiency in new development approvals. Are we providing any incentives to property holders to manage water efficiency in existing residential and commercial buildings?

### **Productivity Commission Review of Funding Models for Local Water Utilities**

- (22) The current NSW Productivity Commission review of funding models for local water utilities is a component of Phase 2 of The Town Water Risk Reduction Program initiated in 2021 by the Coalition Government, a two-year program working with the sector to identify long-term solutions to the barriers facing local water utilities. An independent evaluation of Phase 1 in September 2022 found the Program enjoyed broad support and had been broadly successful. Minister, are we now in year 3 of a two-year program? Can you explain why this component of Phase 2 of the Town Water Risk Reduction program is only underway in 2024?

### **Sydney Water and Hunter Water**

- (23) Minister, there's a housing crisis. One challenge to releasing more land for development has been the capacity to deliver infrastructure and connections. What additional efforts and resources are being provided by Sydney Water and Hunter Water to help cater for the demand for housing?
- (24) On a per capita basis, how does Sydney Water and Hunter Water's capital expenditure compare to investment in town water, wastewater, connection, and storage in remote and regional New South Wales?

### **Gunidgera Weir Project**

- (25) After being held up by rain events in 2021 and 2022, works on the Gunidgera Weir are due to recommence in March 2024. Can you advise if there are any reasons this will not go ahead as planned?
- (a) Can you advise if further stakeholder consultation has been undertaken by the Government in relation to the project in recent months?

### **Namoi Water Sharing Plan**

- (26) In December the Government announced the Namoi Water Sharing Plan will be finalised in June 2024 with new rules added and substantial cuts to floodplain harvesting.
- (a) When will the details for these changes be made public?
- (b) What community consultation is planned between now and the release of the Plan?

- (c) Will the new rules be the subject of community consultation prior to becoming part of the Plan?

### **Coastal Harvestable Rights**

- (27) The Far North Coast, North Coast, and South Coast Regional Water Strategies contain actions to improve readiness for a more variable climate. Within each of these Regional Water Strategies is the following action: “Increase on-farm water storage.” Minister, can you advise what initiatives the Government has undertaken to fulfill this strategic action?
  - (a) In November the Minister referred to hydrological modelling done as part of the Harvestable Rights Review. Modelling was undertaken for 10 representative coastal catchments, from the Bega in the south to Woolgoolga in the north. The Minister said she made the decision to reduce coastal harvestable rights from 30% to 10% to “reduce unquantified impacts on river flows”. However, the modelling done across these 10 catchments does in fact quantify the potential reduction in streamflow at hypothetical 10%, 20%, 30% and 50% harvestable rights. Can we assume, that by setting coastal harvestable rights at 10%, this indicates the potential effect on streamflow at 10% harvestable rights is the threshold Labor is comfortable with?
  - (b) In relation to actual uptake of rights, the report states: “This means that under the current limits, there is already potential for increases in the volume of water intercepted as harvestable rights. This would affect downstream flows to some extent, but the likelihood of this happening (that is, the impact it would have on streamflow based on a 100% uptake) is low”. Minister, taking a risk-based approach, do you agree that, with actual demand indicated by an average uptake of 25% of 10% harvestable rights, irrespective of whether an individual landholder may need to harvest beyond that 10%, the likelihood of reaching the potential effect on streamflow indicated in the report at 10% remains extremely low?
  - (c) The former DPE advised that during the period coastal harvestable rights were set at 30%, they received only a handful of notifications from landholders intending to increase water harvesting above the 10% threshold. Can you advise if any of these landholders have been prevented from harvesting water beyond 10%?
  - (d) Were there any themes in the reasoning these individual landholders gave the Department when notifying their need to harvest beyond 10%?

- (e) Considering there was only a handful, did anyone in the Department calculate the proportion of surface water that would be harvested across the catchments they reside, if individual landholders increased their capture as notified to the Department?
- (f) In Budget Estimates on 28 February, Amanda Jones of DCCEEW said availability of data will be a factor in prioritising catchments for a determination of sustainable harvestable rights. As data exists for the 10 catchments in the Review, can these catchments be expedited? As we know the catchments where needs beyond 10%, where landholders indicated it to the Department, can these catchments be expedited?

### **Burrinjuck Dam**

- (28) In budget estimates in November, the Minister [you] said while no business case for raising Burrinjuck Dam exists, you had engaged contractors to assist with the Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategy. The Minister [you] couldn't say what proportion of the cost was associated with assessing the option to raise Burrinjuck, but it would be a small fraction. When can we expect to see the outcomes of this work?
- (a) Will there be any money in this budget to progress the proposal to raise the Burrinjuck Dam wall, either via a feasibility study, a business case or in any other way?
  - (b) Has the Department allocated any resources to assess or progress this proposal? How many staff are currently involved?
  - (c) In Budget Estimates last November, the Minister [you] said water security would be the main driver for raising the Burrinjuck Dam Wall. In January this year, Water NSW announced it would be increasing releases from Burrinjuck Dam from 7 GL per day to 10 GL per day. Inflows were expected to peak at 14 GL per day with the dam at 98.6 per cent capacity. Downstream landholders were advised to monitor river levels and take steps to protect livestock and equipment. Given the experience of recent years, will flood mitigation and the protection of livelihoods and communities also be a priority in assessing this proposal?

### **Cold water pollution**

- (29) What funding or resources have been allocated to develop the Cold Water Pollution Strategy?
- (a) What funding or resources have been allocated to implement solutions for Cold Water Pollution?

- (b) What resources have been assigned to either the strategy or to implement measures to address cold water pollution? Do you have a team assigned to cold water pollution? How many staff are working on cold water pollution?
- (c) Can you advise of any projects the government is initiating to address cold water pollution?

### **Wilcannia Weir Project**

- (30) Can you advise what stakeholder and community engagement you undertook last year, and where can we find documentation of that feedback?
  - (a) Can you provide a copy of the comprehensive assessments that recommended the replacement of the adjustable release design with a cheaper fixed crest design?
  - (b) In the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee in February, Greg Whalen of the Commonwealth DCCEEW said they'd written requesting NSW advise how the scope of the project was going to change and if you were going to the change funding agreement as well, because that agreement had a scope of works and expectations in terms of outcome. He said you'd provided "some" advice in November but didn't actually address all of their questions. He said they'd been in contact with NSW regularly since then and as late as January they'd written to advise that information was still outstanding. Have you provided the requested information to the Commonwealth yet?
  - (c) He said they also reminded NSW that information that had been shared with the public about the design hadn't actually been shared with them. At the time of the Senate hearings on 16 February they had still not received the information to amend the original funding agreement. How much will the Commonwealth be required to reduce their original \$15 million dollar commitment?
  - (d) In reducing the scope of this project, had we considered the implications for Commonwealth funding?
  - (e) One of the *actual* community concerns the Wilcannia Weir Project addressed was, with the current weir, a lack of flow-over during drought left the riverbed dry downstream. An adjustable release design, such as a gated weir, provides the flexibility to regulate release and manage streamflow according to the changing hydrological environment. Can you please share the advice that this was no longer a functional requirement of the Wilcannia Weir?



- (f) Can you please advise the projected end-of-life of the clay and rock weir?

### **Burrendong Dam**

- (31) Action 2.4 of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy leaves the possibility open for increasing the storage of Burrendong Dam to 120% of the current full storage level.
- (a) Are there any additional connectivity projects being considered to coincide with this option?

### **Menindee Lakes**

- (32) In the Senate Environment and Communications Legislative Committee on 16 February, Dr Davis of the Murray Darling Basin Authority advised they were talking with NSW about trialling new arrangements for managing water through Menindee Lakes. He said NSW has a new method for calculating environmental water coming into Menindee at the top. Where and how has this methodology been developed?
- (33) Is this methodology publicly available?
- (34) Will your rescoping of this project incorporate rescoping the Lower-Darling constraints easing project?
- (a) Are you considering removing the Lower Darling constraints from the Menindee Lakes project?
- (35) In their 16 February update, DPI Fisheries reported fish at Menindee were still struggling at the surface. At one stage this was largely put down to anchor worm. More recently anchor worm has been discounted. Is the uncertainty a result of resourcing issues in the region?
- (a) How often and when was the last time staff had to travel from Sydney to assess the issues at Menindee?

### **Flood Recovery**

- (36) As buybacks have had limited impact on removing people living on floodplains, will flood mitigation measures be a major priority in allocating funds going forward to ensure those whose livelihoods remain on floodplains do not have their recovery struggles compounded by the next event?
- (a) What linkages does the NSW Government have with the Commonwealth Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program?

- (b) What is the government currently doing to prioritise flood mitigation initiatives as preventative measures rather than \$15 billion or more per event recovery operation? How will these be informed?

### **Belubula Water Security Project**

- (37) With regards to the funding of the BWSP Final Business Case, joint funding commitments were made by both State and Federal Governments in April 2022, and February/March 2023 totalling \$6.831m on each occasion. With the change of State government in March 2023, has this funding commitment been reaffirmed for this important water security project?
  - (a) And if not, when will the funding commitment be reaffirmed?
  - (b) With the risk of a large population centre such as Orange running out of water due to future droughts, do you agree that the augmentation of Lake Rowlands under a staged approach with the pipeline linkage with Carcoar Dam, will greatly reduce this risk?

### **Revised Murray Darling Basin Plan Deal**

- (38) Minister time is running out for us to meet the 2026 deadline for water saving projects; given the significant delays we're seeing on building approvals right across the state, are you actively considering designating these water saving projects as 'state significant'?

### **Regional Water Security**

- (39) Minister, last September you cancelled plans to raise the Wyangala Dam wall. The threat of flood and drought though are not so easily eliminated. Five months on, what plans have you put in place to replace this visionary project?
  - (a) Minister, is the government actively considering building any dams in rural and regional NSW. If not, why not?

### **Boil Water Alerts**

- (40) The Government's has committed to co-fund with Hilltops Council a detailed design for a 30-kilometre Harden to Boorowa pipeline, a proposal from a Coalition funded business case, that will bring economic opportunity along its course, and water security to the growing community of Boorowa who spent several weeks through January and February under a boil water alert. This summer, boil water alerts have also been issued for the communities of Moama, Brungle, Jerilderie, Nimbin, Baradine, Yass, Murrumbateman, Bowning, Binalong,

and Jindabyne twice. Where are these communities on your list of priorities for funding under the Safe and Secure Water program?

### **Safe and secure water**

- (41) Minister, at the Cootumundra Mayoral Summit last month, an annual event that brings together the Mayors and General Managers of the nine Councils, you advised that once commitments to existing projects in the Safe and Secure Water Program have been fulfilled, then we can look at the gaps and see what else we need to do. Current projects run out to 2028. Does this mean there will be no new expenditure commitments under the Safe and Secure Water Program until 2028-29?
- (42) As outlined, we've had 14 towns and villages told it is not safe to drink their water – that would not happen in the city. Do you concede the government needs to top up the vitally important Safe & Secure Water Program?

### **Drought Preparedness**

- (43) Minister, last time we spoke you effectively said your department was talking about talking about drought preparedness; Mother Nature gave you a much-needed reprieve over the Summer, but what plan do you have in place for future droughts?
- (a) Minister, can rural and regional communities have confidence that you're taking their water security seriously?

### **Water and Sewerage Infrastructure**

- (44) Did any water agency provide information to the Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure or the Premier's Department concerning the number of breaks or sits bursts for each of the 305 locations considered as part of the Transport Oriented Development Program?
- (a) If so, which locations?
- (45) What is the age of the sewerage and water infrastructure in:
- (a) Marrickville
- (b) Balmain
- (c) Wiley Park
- (d) Roseville
- (e) Bankstown

- (f) Bella Vista
- (g) Crows Nest
- (h) Homebush
- (i) Hornsby
- (j) Kellyville
- (k) Macquarie Park
- (l) Rockdale
- (m) Kogarah
- (n) Banksia
- (o) Corrimal
- (p) Dapto
- (q) North Wollongong
- (r) Turella
- (s) Dulwich Hill
- (t) Canterbury
- (u) Ashfield
- (v) Croydon
- (w) Berala
- (x) Lidcombe
- (y) St Marys
- (z) Roseville
- (aa) Lindfield
- (bb) Killara
- (cc) Gordon
- (dd) Tuggerah
- (ee) Wyong
- (ff) Morristet

- (gg) Booragul
  - (hh) Teralba
  - (ii) Kotara
  - (jj) Adamstown
  - (kk) Hamilton
  - (ll) Newcastle
  - (mm) North Strathfield
- (46) Given it was indicated that sites like Edgecliff weren't included in the Transport Oriented Development Program because they were "currently limited in additional growth" because of "limited sewer and water infrastructure", did Sydney Water (or any other water agency) recommend to DPHI any other locations be eliminated on similar grounds?
- (a) If so, which locations?
- (47) What is the nature of the sewer and water infrastructure at Marrickville, Wiley Park and Roseville compared to Edgecliff?
- (48) Are you aware that there have been over 50 sewerage sites burst in the Ku-ring-gai LGA in the last twelve months?
- (a) Was this information provided to DPHI before 7 December 2023 for the consideration of determining TOD locations and the ability of infrastructure to cope?
- (49) How many water mains bursts have there been over the last twelve months in:
- (a) Marrickville
  - (b) Balmain
  - (c) Wiley Park
  - (d) Roseville
  - (e) Bankstown
  - (f) Bella Vista
  - (g) Crows Nest
  - (h) Homebush
  - (i) Hornsby

- (j) Kellyville
- (k) Macquarie Park
- (l) Rockdale
- (m) Kogarah
- (n) Banksia
- (o) Corrimal
- (p) Dapto
- (q) North Wollongong
- (r) Turella
- (s) Dulwich Hill
- (t) Canterbury
- (u) Ashfield
- (v) Croydon
- (w) Berala
- (x) Lidcombe
- (y) St Marys
- (z) Roseville
- (aa) Lindfield
- (bb) Killara
- (cc) Gordon
- (dd) Tuggerah
- (ee) Wyong
- (ff) Morriset
- (gg) Booragul
- (hh) Teralba
- (ii) Kotara
- (jj) Adamstown

- (kk) Hamilton
  - (ll) Newcastle
  - (mm) North Strathfield
- (50) How many sewerage sites bursts have there been over the last twelve months in:
- (a) Marrickville
  - (b) Balmain
  - (c) Wiley Park
  - (d) Roseville
  - (e) Bankstown
  - (f) Bella Vista
  - (g) Crows Nest
  - (h) Homebush
  - (i) Hornsby
  - (j) Kellyville
  - (k) Macquarie Park
  - (l) Rockdale
  - (m) Kogarah
  - (n) Banksia
  - (o) Corrimal
  - (p) Dapto
  - (q) North Wollongong
  - (r) Turella
  - (s) Dulwich Hill
  - (t) Canterbury
  - (u) Ashfield
  - (v) Croydon
  - (w) Berala

- (x) Lidcombe
- (y) St Marys
- (z) Roseville
- (aa) Lindfield
- (bb) Killara
- (cc) Gordon
- (dd) Tuggerah
- (ee) Wyong
- (ff) Morriset
- (gg) Booragul
- (hh) Teralba
- (ii) Kotara
- (jj) Adamstown
- (kk) Hamilton
- (ll) Newcastle
- (mm) North Strathfield

(51) How much money has been collected, to date, in the 2023-24 financial year from Sydney Water dividend payments?

(52) What is the contribution (in dollars) that DSPs are making to Sydney Water dividends payable to the NSW Government, in FY 2023-24 and over the forward estimates?

(53) Are there any ongoing upgrades to water infrastructure in any of the following locations, included in the TOD program, and if so, when will the upgrades be completed by?

- (a) Adamstown
- (b) Ashfield
- (c) Banksia
- (d) Bankstown
- (e) Bella Vista



- (f) Berala
- (g) Booragul
- (h) Canterbury
- (i) Corrimal
- (j) Crows Nest
- (k) Croydon
- (l) Dapto
- (m) Dulwich Hill
- (n) Gordon
- (o) Gosford
- (p) Hamilton
- (q) Homebush
- (r) Hornsby
- (s) Kellyville
- (t) Killara
- (u) Kogarah
- (v) Kotara
- (w) Lidcombe
- (x) Lindfield
- (y) Macquarie Park
- (z) Marrickville
- (aa) Morisset
- (bb) Newcastle Interchange
- (cc) North Strathfield
- (dd) North Wollongong
- (ee) Rockdale
- (ff) Roseville

- (gg) St Marys
- (hh) Teralba
- (ii) The Bays
- (jj) Tuggerah
- (kk) Turrella
- (ll) Wiley Park
- (mm) Wyong

(54) Are there any ongoing upgrades to sewerage infrastructure in any of the following locations, included in the TOD program, and if so, when will the upgrades be completed by?

- (a) Adamstown
- (b) Ashfield
- (c) Banksia
- (d) Bankstown
- (e) Bella Vista
- (f) Berala
- (g) Booragul
- (h) Canterbury
- (i) Corrimal
- (j) Crows Nest
- (k) Croydon
- (l) Dapto
- (m) Dulwich Hill
- (n) Gordon
- (o) Gosford
- (p) Hamilton
- (q) Homebush
- (r) Hornsby

- (s) Kellyville
- (t) Killara
- (u) Kogarah
- (v) Kotara
- (w) Lidcombe
- (x) Lindfield
- (y) Macquarie Park
- (z) Marrickville
- (aa) Morisset
- (bb) Newcastle Interchange
- (cc) North Strathfield
- (dd) North Wollongong
- (ee) Rockdale
- (ff) Roseville
- (gg) St Marys
- (hh) Teralba
- (ii) The Bays
- (jj) Tuggerah
- (kk) Turrella
- (ll) Wiley Park
- (mm) Wyong

(55) Are any water agencies planning any upgrades to water infrastructure in the following locations included in the TOD program?

- (a) Adamstown
- (b) Ashfield
- (c) Banksia
- (d) Bankstown

- (e) Bella Vista
- (f) Berala
- (g) Booragul
- (h) Canterbury
- (i) Corrimal
- (j) Crows Nest
- (k) Croydon
- (l) Dapto
- (m) Dulwich Hill
- (n) Gordon
- (o) Gosford
- (p) Hamilton
- (q) Homebush
- (r) Hornsby
- (s) Kellyville
- (t) Killara
- (u) Kogarah
- (v) Kotara
- (w) Lidcombe
- (x) Lindfield
- (y) Macquarie Park
- (z) Marrickville
- (aa) Morisset
- (bb) Newcastle Interchange
- (cc) North Strathfield
- (dd) North Wollongong
- (ee) Rockdale

- (ff) Roseville
- (gg) St Marys
- (hh) Teralba
- (ii) The Bays
- (jj) Tuggerah
- (kk) Turrella
- (ll) Wiley Park
- (mm) Wyong

(56) Are any water agencies planning any upgrades to sewerage infrastructure in the following locations included in the TOD program?

- (a) Adamstown
- (b) Ashfield
- (c) Banksia
- (d) Bankstown
- (e) Bella Vista
- (f) Berala
- (g) Booragul
- (h) Canterbury
- (i) Corrimal
- (j) Crows Nest
- (k) Croydon
- (l) Dapto
- (m) Dulwich Hill
- (n) Gordon
- (o) Gosford
- (p) Hamilton
- (q) Homebush

- (r) Hornsby
- (s) Kellyville
- (t) Killara
- (u) Kogarah
- (v) Kotara
- (w) Lidcombe
- (x) Lindfield
- (y) Macquarie Park
- (z) Marrickville
- (aa) Morisset
- (bb) Newcastle Interchange
- (cc) North Strathfield
- (dd) North Wollongong
- (ee) Rockdale
- (ff) Roseville
- (gg) St Marys
- (hh) Teralba
- (ii) The Bays
- (jj) Tuggerah
- (kk) Turrella
- (ll) Wiley Park
- (mm) Wyong

(57) As part of consultation on the TOD Program, did any water agency identify any capacity limitation in any of the following sites, and if they did, what was the limitation:

- (a) Adamstown
- (b) Ashfield
- (c) Banksia

- (d) Bankstown
- (e) Bella Vista
- (f) Berala
- (g) Booragul
- (h) Canterbury
- (i) Corrimal
- (j) Crows Nest
- (k) Croydon
- (l) Dapto
- (m) Dulwich Hill
- (n) Gordon
- (o) Gosford
- (p) Hamilton
- (q) Homebush
- (r) Hornsby
- (s) Kellyville
- (t) Killara
- (u) Kogarah
- (v) Kotara
- (w) Lidcombe
- (x) Lindfield
- (y) Macquarie Park
- (z) Marrickville
- (aa) Morisset
- (bb) Newcastle Interchange
- (cc) North Strathfield
- (dd) North Wollongong

- (ee) Rockdale
  - (ff) Roseville
  - (gg) St Marys
  - (hh) Teralba
  - (ii) The Bays
  - (jj) Tuggerah
  - (kk) Turrella
  - (ll) Wiley Park
  - (mm) Wyong
- (58) Were any water agencies consulted as part of the development of the Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Reforms?
- (59) What feedback was provided by water agencies to Government in the development of the Low and Mid-Rose Housing Reforms?
- (a) Did the various water agencies provide information about the age and capacity of sewerage and water infrastructure in all areas impacted by the Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Reforms?
  - (b) Did any water agency provide information to the Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure or the Premier's Department concerning the number of breaks or site bursts for any area considered as part of the Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Reforms?
  - (c) Did any water agency provide information to the Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure or the Premier's Department concerning the number of breaks or site bursts for any area included as part of the Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Reforms?
- (60) The Mayor of Wollondilly has indicated that there are 14 trucks a day pumping out sewerage in that Shire, was this sewerage capacity considered in the application of the changes to low and mid-rise housing?
- (a) What progress is being made to provide better sewerage services to the Wollondilly Shire?
  - (b) Until when is it estimated that the usage of trucks to pump sewerage in Wollondilly Shire will continue?



- (c) Will any more trucks need to be added to pump sewerage in the Wollondilly Shire?
  - i. If so, how many?
  - ii. If so, when will this occur?
- (d) Has any agency under your control outlined it be inappropriate that Wollondilly Shire be included in the Low and Mid Rise Reforms because of the current sewerage situation?

### **Oxford Gardens Development, Ingleburn**

- (61) What is the approval process at Sydney Water for the proposed temporary pumping station to support the Oxford Gardens Development in Ingleburn?
- (62) When was the Temporary Pumping Station proposal submitted by Billbergia/Bensley Developments, and what has been the duration of Sydney Water's assessment?
  - (a) At which stage of the approval process does the proposal for the Temporary Pumping Station currently stand?
- (63) Can you provide an estimated timeline for the approval of the Temporary Pumping Station proposal?
  - (a) When do you anticipate the issuance of the Section 73 Certificate for the Oxford Gardens development?
- (64) There is a looming Sunset date, on 24 April, as the developer may rescind the project if necessary approvals (Section 73 Certificate) are not obtained. Will we have a resolution before then?

### **NORTH COAST**

#### **Resilient Lands**

- (65) In the estimates hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, you made reference to an announcement that you made alongside the Premier and Minister for Planning with regards to the \$400m Resilient Lands Program in Lismore to deliver “as a partnership between SCU and Landcom to deliver housing, with mixed tenure—some private market, some social and affordable.”
  - (a) What is the NSW Governments contribution to this specific project?
  - (b) How many private market homes will be delivered?
    - i. When will the first private market home be completed?

- ii. When will all the private market homes be completed?
- (c) How many social homes will be delivered?
  - i. When will the first social home be completed?
  - ii. When will all the social homes be completed?
- (d) How many affordable homes will be delivered?
  - i. When will the first affordable home be completed?
  - ii. When will all the affordable homes be completed?
- (e) What financial or other considerations will define what is an “affordable home” in this project?

### **Build to Rent in the Northern Rivers region**

- (66) In the estimates hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, you made reference to a \$20 million commitment made to deliver build to rent on the Northern Rivers region.
- (a) By electorate, how many homes will this scheme deliver?
  - (b) When will the first home be completed by?
  - (c) When will all the homes be completed by?

### **Geography**

- (67) Does the Central Coast, or any electorate south of Port Stephens sit with the North Coast ministry?

## **HOUSING**

### **Affordable Housing**

- (68) What engagement has the Minister and her Departments had with faith-based organisations specifically about expanding their footprint in affordable housing?
- (a) What policies does the Government have in this regard?
- (69) How much funding have affordable housing providers received from the NSW Government in:
- (a) FY 2022/23
  - (b) FY 2023/24 (projected)

## **Taxes**

- (70) Have the Government canvassed any taxes on new developments to fund the construction of social housing?
- (71) Will the Government rule out any new contribution schemes for the funding of social housing?
- (72) Will the Government rule out a tax on private developments to fund the construction of social housing?
- (73) Will the Government rule out a tax of any sort to fund the construction of social housing?

## **TOD and Low and Mid Rise Reforms - Homes NSW**

- (74) What assessments have Homes NSW conducted of existing sites owned by Homes NSW agencies within:
  - (a) the Transport Oriented Development Program (TOD) locations?
  - (b) areas impacted by the Low-and Mid-Rise Housing Reforms?
- (75) How will Homes NSW use the TOD Program to create new social housing?
  - (a) Has a plan been developed, or is in development, to respond to TOD?
  - (b) Considering land values near stations will increase due to TOD – will the increased cost of acquiring land make it prohibitive for new social housing to be built?
  - (c) What indicatives does Homes NSW have in place to build new social housing close to public transport links – considering people in social housing often cannot afford a car and are reliant on public transport.
  - (d) How many existing social homes owned by Homes NSW are located within the 39 proposed TOD locations?
  - (e) Please list every property owned by Homes NSW within every TOD location, with the following:
    - i. Type of property (freestanding home, apartment block etc.)
    - ii. Number of stories
    - iii. Size of the block of land
    - iv. Number of bedrooms

- (f) Will Homes NSW consider selling any of these properties owned in TOD locations – due to the significant increase in land value which could be used to create new social housing?
  - (g) Will Homes NSW consider redeveloping existing social housing within TOD zones?
- (76) How will Homes NSW be using the low-and mid-rise housing reforms to create new social housing?
- (a) Has a plan been developed, or is in development, to respond to the low-and mid-rise housing reforms?
  - (b) Considering land values near stations will likely increase due to low-and mid-rise housing reforms – will the increased cost of acquiring land make it prohibitive for new social housing to be built?
  - (c) How many existing social homes owned by Homes NSW are located within R2 and R3 zoning?
  - (d) How many existing social homes owned by Homes NSW are located within R2 and R3 zoning impacted by the low-and mid-rise housing reforms?
    - i. Have the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure shared any maps with Homes NSW concerning the areas impacted by the low-and mid-rise housing reforms?

If so, will these maps be made publicly available

    - ii. Will Homes NSW consider selling any of these properties owned in locations impacted by low-and mid-rise housing reforms – due to the significant increase in land value which could be used to create new social housing?
    - iii. Will Homes NSW consider redeveloping existing social housing within zones impacted by low-and mid-rise housing reforms?
- (77) What estimated yield did Homes NSW (or former agency) provide DPHI for social housing on government land as a result of the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Program at the following TOD sites:
- (a) Adamstown
  - (b) Ashfield
  - (c) Banksia

- (d) Bankstown
- (e) Bella Vista
- (f) Berala
- (g) Booragul
- (h) Canterbury
- (i) Corrimal
- (j) Crows Nest
- (k) Croydon
- (l) Dapto
- (m) Dulwich Hill
- (n) Gordon
- (o) Gosford
- (p) Hamilton
- (q) Homebush
- (r) Hornsby
- (s) Kellyville
- (t) Killara
- (u) Kogarah
- (v) Kotara
- (w) Lidcombe
- (x) Lindfield
- (y) Macquarie Park
- (z) Marrickville
- (aa) Morisset
- (bb) Newcastle Interchange
- (cc) North Strathfield
- (dd) North Wollongong

- (ee) Rockdale
- (ff) Roseville
- (gg) St Marys
- (hh) Teralba
- (ii) The Bays
- (jj) Tuggerah
- (kk) Turrella
- (ll) Wiley Park
- (mm) Wyong

### **Social Housing Tenants**

- (78) How is Homes NSW ensuring we have enough properties over the next 10, 20 and 25 years to respond to the accessibility needs, particularly with an aging cohort anticipated in social housing?
- (79) On 31 December 2023, how many social housing tenants were there in NSW?
- (80) At the present time how many social housing tenants are there in NSW?
- (81) How many social housing tenants have, in the months of November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024:
  - (a) Requested transfers?
  - (b) Left social housing to private tenancy?
  - (c) Left social housing to homelessness or unknown tenancy/location?
  - (d) Were evicted from social housing?
- (82) How many tenants have Homes NSW (and its predecessors) taken to NCAT during FY 2023/24 (to date)?
- (83) What is the total amount that has been spent on legal advice during FY 2023/24 (to date) relating to taking tenants to NCAT?
- (84) Please provide an updated breakdown of the social housing waiting list by allocation zone?
- (85) What is the median wait time for people to access social housing for those on the priority social housing waiting list in FY 2023/24 (to date)

- (86) What is the median wait time for people to access social housing for those on the social housing waiting list in FY 2023/24 (to date)
- (87) What is the number of people on the social housing waiting list for the following months:
- (a) November 2023
  - (b) December 2023
  - (c) January 2024
  - (d) February 2024
- (88) What is the number of people on the priority social housing waiting list for the following months:
- (a) November 2023
  - (b) December 2023
  - (c) January 2024
  - (d) February 2024
- (89) How many applications on the waiting list (general) were fulfilled during 2023?
- (90) How many applications on the waiting list (priority) were fulfilled during 2023?
- (91) How many applications on the waiting list (general) have been fulfilled during 2024 (to date)?
- (92) How many applications on the waiting list (priority) have been fulfilled during 2024 (to date)?
- (93) How many children were on the social housing waitlist on:
- (a) 31 December 2023
  - (b) 31 January 2024
  - (c) 29 February 2024
- (94) How many males aged 60 and over were on the social housing waitlist on:
- (a) 31 December 2023
  - (b) 31 January 2024
  - (c) 29 February 2024
- (95) How many females aged 60 and over were on the social housing waitlist on:
- (a) 31 December 2023

(a) 31 January 2024

(b) 29 February 2024

### **Maintenance of Social Housing**

- (96) How much has been spent on social housing maintenance in FY 2023/24 to date?
- (97) How many **urgent** requests for maintenance to social housing properties have been made in FY 2023/24 to date?
- (98) How many requests for maintenance to social housing properties have been made in FY 2023/24 to date?
- (99) What is the average wait time for fulfilment of social housing maintenance, on this date?
- (100) How many maintenance requests remain unfulfilled, to date?
- (101) What is the average waiting time for a maintenance request to be resolved for plumbing issue?
- (102) What is the average waiting time for a maintenance request to be resolved for a mould issue?
- (103) How many contractors are engaged by Homes NSW for social housing maintenance?
- (a) Can the number of contractors be broken down by type of trade?
- (b) How many of these contractors are small businesses, by type of trade?
- (104) How many staff are there in existing call centres for social housing maintenance?

### **Self-Assessments by LAHC and AHO**

- (105) How do the policies announced by the Government on 19 June 2023 – “Planning reforms to deliver social and affordable housing” – change due to the establishment of Homes NSW, if at all?
- (a) Are LAHC and AHO still making the self-assessments, as part of the Homes NSW structure, or is Homes NSW making the self-assessments?
- (106) Given that LAHC, AHO and Landcom are able to self-assess social and affordable developments of up to 75 dwellings, including residential flat buildings over three storeys where these are permissible:
- (a) How many self-assessments has LAHC made so far?
- (b) How many proposals were approved?



- (c) How many are pending?
  - (d) How many were rejected?
  - (e) Can a list of all of these self-assessments by LAHC be provided?
- (107) How many self-assessments have the AHO made so far?
- (a) How many proposals were approved?
  - (b) How many are pending?
  - (c) How many were rejected?
  - (d) Can a list of all of these self-assessments by AHO be provided?
- (108) How many DA's have been submitted to date from the reform to "reduce the minimum lot size for dual occupancies being delivered as a complying development by LAHC, AHO, Community Housing Providers and Aboriginal Housing Providers"?
- (109) How many DA's have LAHC, AHO, Community Housing Providers and Aboriginal Housing Providers submitted for dual occupancies to date?

### **Mental Health Housing**

- (110) Concerning the establishment of three sites for housing with mental health support via the Haven Foundation, an election commitment of the Government:
- (a) Has the location on the Central Coast been confirmed?
    - i. If not, when will the location on the Central Coast will be confirmed?
  - (b) When will this project on the Central Coast be delivered?
- (111) Have the sites for the two other locations been finalised with the provider, Haven for mental health housing:
- (a) If not, has a short list been devised?
  - (b) When we can anticipate the next steps?
  - (c) What are the next steps to get this housing set up?
- (112) How will people to stay in this new mental health housing housing be chosen?
- (a) What are the criteria and conditions for somebody to be eligible for mental health housing?

- (b) How long are people who live in this housing anticipated to stay in mental health housing?
  - (c) Will there be a lease signed which dictates a certain timeframe?
  - (d) What support will be provided to ensure people can move into other types of housing following their time in mental health housing?
- (113) Is there an update on how much will each of the three new sites via Haven will cost individually?
- (114) Is there existing mental health housing in NSW?
- (a) If so, how many dwellings?
  - (b) Can you please list the number of mental health housing dwellings, by postcode?

### **Short-Term Rental Accommodation (STRA)**

- (115) Given you are the Minister leading the review into Short-Term Rental Accommodation (STRA), have you canvassed what rate to set a potential STRA tax at?
- (116) Will the Government rule out a STRA tax impacting the entire state?
- (117) Would the Government consider a STRA tax, but only in certain postcodes or LGAs?
- (118) Has the Government considered a Tourist Tax in Sydney and other holiday areas, similar to measures adopted in other cities such as Paris?
- (119) Can you clarify the timeframes involved in the development and release of the recent STRA Review Discussion Paper? Given the complexity of the issues addressed in the paper, why was the industry provided less than one month to respond?
- (120) Has the Government considered expanding the caps on STRA which were announced in the Byron Shire last year, more widely throughout the state?
- (121) What is the progress on the 60-day rental cap in the Byron Shire?
- (a) In the Byron Shire, has there been any progress in freeing up long-term rental housing?
  - (b) What was the percentage of long-term rental housing in the Byron Shire on 30 June 2023?
  - (c) What is the percentage of long-term rental housing in the Byron Shire to date?
- (122) What proof is there to show that limiting STRA will have any benefit on the long-term rental market by freeing up supply?

- (123) Has the government conducted any economic analysis regarding the impact of STRA on the NSW economy?
- (124) Has the government conducted any comparative analysis of STRA regulations in other jurisdictions, both nationally and internationally? What insights or best practices have been identified from and how are they being incorporated into the development of STRA policy in NSW?
- (125) Has the government reviewed the findings of the recent Urbis regarding the economic impact of STRA in NSW?
- (a) What is the response of the Government?
- (126) Can the government provide an update on the status of discussions with industry stakeholders and community representatives regarding the proposed reforms outlined in the STRA Review Discussion Paper?
- (127) What measures are being taken to ensure that diverse perspectives and interests from a range of stakeholders in the STRA industry are adequately represented in the policymaking process?
- (128) Has the Government conducted any modelling on how a STRA tax would increase hotel room prices?
- (a) What were the results of this modelling?
- (b) Will the modelling be released publicly?
- (129) What modelling has been conducted by Government about the potential negative impact on tourism and local economies if overly restrictive regulations are imposed on the STRA sector?
- (a) What were the results of this modelling?
- (b) Will the modelling be released publicly?
- (130) Has it been estimated or modelled how much more money STRA landlords are making from renting out their property for STRA, rather than long-term rentals?
- (a) What were the results of this modelling?
- (b) Will the modelling be released publicly?
- (131) Can you please provide a list of STRA registrations in NSW broken down by postcode and LGA?

- (132) How many people stayed in STRA accommodation in NSW in 2023?
- (a) Are these figures available by LGA? Please make available if so.
- (133) Is it known how many of these people were visiting NSW from interstate and overseas?
- (134) How many people stayed in hotels in the Sydney Metro in 2023?
- (135) How many people stayed in hotels in NSW in 2023?
- (136) What was the economic benefit of STRA accommodation on the NSW economy in 2023?
- (137) How much would caps on STRA accommodation cost the NSW economy every year?
- (a) Has this modelling been conducted?
- (b) What were the results of this modelling?
- (c) Will the modelling be released publicly?
- (138) Can you clarify the timeframes involved in the development and release of the recent STRA Review Discussion Paper? Given the complexity of the issues addressed in the paper, why was the industry provided less than one month to respond?
- (139) Have you conducted inquiries into local government's enforcement of the current STRA planning framework?
- (140) Given there is a substantial amount of readily available data, has there been any qualitative and quantitative analysis undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness the current framework?
- (141) Can the government provide insights into the number of complaints received and enforcement actions taken by local councils?

### **Construction of Social Housing Dwellings**

- (142) What is the number of new social housing dwellings constructed in FY 2023/24 (to date)
- (143) Can you please provide the number of social housing dwellings constructed in FY 2023/24 (to date) per LGA?
- (144) Can you please provide the number of social housing dwellings constructed in FY 2023/24 (to date) with:
- (a) 1 bedroom
- (b) 2 bedrooms
- (c) 3 bedrooms

(d) 4 or more bedrooms

(145) What percentage does social housing make-up of the total housing stock in NSW in FY 2023/24 (to date)

(146) Can you please provide the projected number of social housing dwellings to be constructed in FY 2023/24?

(147) Can you please provide the projected number of social housing dwellings to be constructed in each year over the forward estimates?

### **Unoccupied LAHC properties**

(148) Currently, how many unoccupied LAHC properties are in NSW?

(a) Could a number please be provided per LGA (to date)?

(b) What was the average time these properties remain unoccupied in?

- i. March 2023
- ii. April 2023
- iii. May 2023
- iv. June 2023
- v. July 2023
- vi. August 2023
- vii. September 2023
- viii. October 2023
- ix. November 2023
- x. December 2023
- xi. January 2024
- xii. February 2024

### **Complaints to Homes NSW**

(149) How many complaints has LAHC received from tenants in social housing during the following months:

(a) November 2023

- (b) December 2023
  - (c) January 2024
- (150) How many complaints remain unresolved to LAHC, categorised by the month the complaint was lodged?
- (a) November 2023
  - (b) December 2023
  - (c) January 2024
- (151) How many complaints have AHO received from tenants in social housing during the following months:
- (a) November 2023
  - (b) December 2023
  - (c) January 2024
- (152) How many complaints remain unresolved to AHO, categorised by the month the complaint was lodged?
- (a) November 2023
  - (b) December 2023
  - (c) January 2024
- (153) How many complaints have Homes NSW received from tenants in social housing during February 2024, broken down by agency?
- (154) How many complaints remain unresolved to Homes NSW, from tenants in social housing during February 2024, broken down by agency?

### **Mental Health**

- (155) Can Dr Murray Wright release the review conducted by himself and Dr Lyons into workplace culture at Cumberland Hospital?
- (156) Can Dr Wright report on the actions he and his executives have taken since the review to address the culture and safety issues at Cumberland Hospital was finalised?
- (157) Can Minister Jackson provide a summary of the Public Interest Disclosure reports she has received in relation to Cumberland Hospital since she became Minister?

- (158) Can Minister Jackson confirm whether any former or current staff at Cumberland Hospital have suffered detrimental action as a result of a report or complaint they have made since she became Minister?
- (a) What is the nature of the detrimental action suffered by NSW staff?
- (159) Minister, you referred to a renegotiated MOU between NSW Police and NSW Health in matters of managing mental health critical incidents.
- (a) Can the Minister advise whether a broad range of Mental Health stakeholders, including those with lived experience, have been consulted in the modification of the MOU?
- (b) Can the Minister release the renegotiated MoU?
- (160) Minister, you referred to a five year statutory review into the Mental Health Commission that is underway.
- (a) Can you advise who is conducting the review?
- (b) Has Cabinet approved the appointment of the Chair and other review members?
- (c) Will the review have public consultations including those with lived experience of mental health challenges, their families, private and public mental health care providers and other stakeholders?
- (161) Minister, can you confirm your evidence at Budget Estimates hearings on the 28<sup>th</sup> February that there has been no further action by yourself in relation to the workplace culture and safety issues at the Mental Health Commission following the resignation of the Commissioner earlier this year?
- (162) Minister, can you provide an update on the delivery of the 2023-2024 Budget commitment of \$20million for the Mental Health Accommodation fund?
- (a) Will this program be completed in 2023-2024?
- (b) If it is not expended in 2023-2024, will the program be rolled over and funded in the 2024-2025 budget?
- (163) Minister, in answer to questions about safety of patients at the new, mixed gender Child and Adolescent Mental Health Facility at **Nepean Hospital**, at Budget Estimates hearings on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, you and Dr Murray referred to changes in policy. You and Dr Murray did

not answer the question about the design of the facility that must protect young females and all patients.

- (a) Can the Minister provide information about the intended design of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Facility at Nepean Hospital and how it will physically protect vulnerable young patients?

(164) Deputy Secretary Willcox referred to NSW Health policies when responding to staff complaints including at Cumberland Hospital.

- (a) Can Dr Willcox confirm she understands NSW Health policies must comply with the Public Interest Disclosure Act?
- (b) Can Dr Willcox confirm who is the responsible officer under the PID Act when staff at Cumberland Hospital make a complaint that meets the criteria of the PID Act?
- (c) Can Dr Willcox provide a summary of open investigations by Safework NSW on matters relating to Cumberland Hospital?
- (d) Can Dr Willcox confirm whether Safework NSW has issued any notices or warnings to NSW Health in relation to work practices at Cumberland Hospital since March 2023?

(165) In evidence, Deputy Secretary Willcox stated the 4 mental health beds for young people at Northern Beaches Hospital are permanent. The official NSW Health update on mental health care on the northern beaches states “The continuation of the current ‘interim’ model at NBH allowing for the admission of 4 young people in acute mental health crises.”

- (a) Can the Minister clarify the current status and long term plans for the 4 acute mental beds for young people at NBH?

(166) The Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has released surveys and reports highlighting NSW has a severe shortage of psychiatrists. Those in the system are over worked and not treating patients to their desired level of care. The RANZCP report staff shortages are particularly acute in rural and regional NSW and patient care is suffering

- (a) What is Minister Jackson doing to improve mental health care professional workforce attraction and retention across NSW?
- (b) What psychiatric workforce programs are specific to rural, regional and remote NSW?
- (c) Can the Minister advise the number of locum psychiatrists in the public health system in NSW?



- (d) Is the number of locum psychiatrists in the public health system changing relative to fixed term (employed or contracted) psychiatrists?
  - (e) Can the Minister advise the status of the promised gap analysis for mental health workforce?
- (167) Workers Comp premiums for the NFP sector including mental health advocacy has increased 32%.
- (a) What is the Minister doing to keep premiums affordable for those organisations supporting mental health service delivery and advocacy in NSW?
- (168) Numerous Mental Health service providers have raised the short term nature of funding. This is particularly problematic in Flood Recovery areas like Lismore and Hawkesbury. Those organisations in the communities recovering from Natural Disasters need to have 4 to 5 year contracts to attract staff and properly resource service delivery of Mental Health.
- (a) What is Minister doing to provide these organisations with greater certainty and resourcing so they can attract and retain qualified staff to support their devastated communities?
- (169) The Minister advised that NSW Health is pursuing options to deliver Stage 2 of the Specialist Living Support (SLS) program now that your Department has not been able to find a Community Housing Provider.
- (a) Please provide an update on the SLS program and when do you expect to make an announcement on a successful service agreement?

## **HOMELESSNESS**

### **Unaccompanied Minors**

- (170) What is the most recent figure of children aged 12 to 15 who have sought services without a parent or guardian from Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS)?
- (a) What date is the figure based on?
  - (b) What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and location?
  - (c) How many of the children who presented to SHS alone are on care and protection orders?
    - i. What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and location?
  - (d) How many of the children sought a bed?

- i. How many received a bed?
    - ii. What were the service outcomes for children who needed accommodation but did not get it, or for children who needed services other than accommodation?
  - (e) What is the breakdown of the duration of stay? (e.g. less than 5 days, between 5 and 90 nights, more than 90 nights)
    - i. What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and location?
    - ii. What is the longest duration of stay?
  - (f) How many of the children were new clients?
    - i. How many were Aboriginal children?
  - (g) How many of the children were returning clients?
    - i. How many were Aboriginal children?
  - (h) What was the most common reason of the children presenting alone?
- (171) What is the most recent figure of children under 12 who have sought services without a parent or guardian from Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS)?
- (a) What date is the figure based on?
  - (b) What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and location?
  - (c) What are the causes of their homelessness?
  - (d) What supports were needed and what did they receive?
  - (e) What happened to them afterwards?
  - (f) How many children under 12 stayed overnight?
- (172) Has DCJ followed up with SHS agencies that recorded children between 0 to 9 years of age were presenting alone to SHS?
- (a) If yes, what date/s did DCJ follow up?
    - i. What was the outcome?
  - (b) If no, why not?
  - (c) How many SHS recorded children between 0 to 9 years of age presenting alone to SHS?

(d) Which LGAs do the SHS primarily operate?

(173) How many cases did a lack of parental consent arise?

(a) What is the breakdown of the ages of the children?

### **Adults Presenting to SHS**

(174) How many adults with children were assisted in the last 12 months?

(a) What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and location?

(b) How many received a bed?

i. What were the service outcomes for adults with children who needed accommodation but did not get it?

(c) What is the breakdown of the duration of stay? (e.g. less than 5 days, between 5 and 90 nights, more than 90 nights)

(d) How many were turned away?

i. What was the reason/s for the refusal?

(175) How many Aboriginal people were assisted?

(a) What is the breakdown by age, gender, and location?

(b) What is the breakdown of the duration of stay? (e.g. less than 5 days, between 5 and 90 nights, more than 90 nights)

(c) How many were turned away?

i. What was the reason/s for the refusal?

(176) How many women over 55s were assisted in the last 12 months?

(a) What is the breakdown by age, Aboriginality and location?

(b) What is the breakdown of the duration of stay? (e.g. less than 5 days, between 5 and 90 nights, more than 90 nights)

(c) How many were turned away?

i. What was the reason/s for the refusal?

## **Service Changes**

(177) In your last Answers to Supplementary Questions, it was advised not all the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) proposed services changes had been assessed. Have all the assessments now been completed?

- (a) If yes, what date was the last assessment completed?
- (b) If no, how many are still outstanding?
  - i. What is the reason/s for the delay?

(178) Which LGAs are the SHS based in that sought an increase in funding?

(179) Which LGAs are the SHS based in that related to gaps in the local service system the change/s may address or contribute to?

(180) Since 1 July 2023, how many SHS have requested additional funding?

## **Specialist Homelessness Services Funding**

(181) In your last Answers to Supplementary Questions, it was advised that the DCJ Budget for homelessness services is fully committed for 2024/25 and additional funding will be sought from 2024/25. Why is additional funding not being sought in 2024/25?

## **Specialist Homelessness Services operating on council or State-owned property/land**

(182) How many Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) in NSW are operating on council or State-owned property/land?

- (a) What is the breakdown by LGA?
- (b) What is the average cost for each SHS to operate on council or State-owned property/land?

## **Aboriginal Specialist Homelessness Services Action Plan**

(183) The implementation of the Aboriginal Specialist Homelessness Services Action Plan was submitted in November 2023 for final approval by January 2024. Has this occurred?

## **Accreditation**

(184) What is the name of the free resources and templates available to Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to achieve accreditation?

(185) What is the name of the podcasts available to SHS to achieve accreditation?

## **Together Home**

- (186) The Together Home Interim Implementation Report recommended the Department investigate and improve reporting of data on non-housing support and highlighted that existing data indicated that 74 per cent of all clients had support provider support plans in place and 76 per cent remained engaged with a support provider. What is being done to improve the gathering of data?
- (187) How many culturally appropriate packages were provided through the Together Home program?
- (a) What is the breakdown by LGA?
- (188) Is there a cost-benefit analysis on the effectiveness of the Together Home program?
- (a) If yes, what is the ratio?
- (189) How many people were assisted through the Together Home program in 2022-23?
- (190) How many people were assisted through the Together Home program in 2023-24?
- (191) How many current clients of the Together Home program are expected to transition out this financial year?
- (192) The number of people with disability engaged with the Together Home program has declined over the years. What is the reason for the drop in people with disability being assisted?

## **Street Count**

- (193) What date will the results from the 2024 Street Count be released to the public?
- (194) What is the actual or estimated cost to conduct the 2024 Street Count?
- (a) What was the actual cost in 2023?
- (b) What was the actual cost in 2022?
- (c) What was the actual cost in 2021?

## **Assertive Outreach**

- (195) How much funding is allocated to Assertive Outreach in NSW?
- (196) During July 2022 to June 2023, districts such as Western NSW and Shoalhaven had less than 10 patrols. The Hunter had less than 20 patrols. What is the reason/s for the low patrols compared to other districts?

## **Journey on Home app**

- (197) Most districts recorded monthly the number of engagements from May 2022 to November 2023. However, the Central Coast and Illawarra/Shoalhaven only provided the number of engagements every so often. Are districts required to capture the data monthly?
- (198) What is the reason/s the Central Coast and Illawarra/Shoalhaven were unable to record or report the data?
- (199) Of those that have had engagements, what is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality?
- (a) How many entered temporary accommodation and transitional housing?
  - (b) How many people rejected assistance?

## **Temporary Accommodation**

- (200) What is the number and percentage of temporary accommodation currently accessible for people with disability?
- (a) What date is this figure based on?

## **Housing and Mental Health Agreement**

- (201) Under the Housing and Mental Health Agreement, bi-annual reports are provided to the Health and DCJ Secretaries on progress. Are these reports being provided to you?
- (a) If yes, what date was the last report provided to you?
  - (b) What is the latest progress update?
- (202) There is also a Service Delivery Framework under the reports against outcomes and indicators. Are these reports being provided to you?
- (a) If yes, what date was the last report provided to you?
  - (b) What is the latest progress update?

## **Overcrowding**

- (203) How much of the homelessness crisis is due to overcrowding?
- (204) Which LGAs is overcrowding most prevalent?
- (205) How many people living in overcrowded conditions are young people?
- (a) How many live in major cities?
  - (b) How many live in inner regional and outer regional areas?

- (c) How many live in remote and very remote areas?
- (d) How many young people are born in Australia?
- (e) How many are young people born overseas?
- (f) How many were from the lowest socioeconomic areas?
- (g) How many were from the highest socioeconomic areas?

(206) Are rates of overcrowding increasing?

- (a) If yes, by how much?

### **Black Dog Institute**

(207) Have you received a copy of Black Dog Institute's Pre-Budget submission for 2024/25?

- (a) If yes, what date was it received?
- (b) Have you read the submission?
- (c) Have you met with the Black Dog Institute in relation to their Pre-Budget submission?

### **Youth Budget**

(208) How much has been allocated in the 2023/24 Budget for the Youth portfolio?

(209) What is the breakdown of the allocation?

### **Discretionary Fund**

(210) How much of the Minister's discretionary fund has been expended?

- (a) What have the funds been expended on?