

## Budget Estimates 2023-24 Hearing – 5 March 2024

## Supplementary Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**\$300 Million TAFE investment**

(1) In relation to the announcement by the government of 6 March 2024 of an investment of \$300 million in TAFE NSW:

- (a) Is this new funding?
- (b) If not, was any of this funding included in the 2023-2024 NSW Budget?
- (c) Is the funding provided wholly or in part by the NSW government or the federal government?
- (d) If in part, what is the proportion, expressed as a percentage of the total funding, supplied by the NSW Government and the percentage supplied by the federal government?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The funding forms part of the overall record allocation of \$2.432 billion to TAFE NSW announced late last year and later in the half-yearly review. Details regarding the record TAFE NSW budget are publicly available online at <https://www.budget.nsw.gov.au>.

Funding is provided wholly by the NSW Government, except for:

- \$2.5 million for Renewable Energy Training Facility - Wollongong Campus;
- \$2.5 million for Early Childhood Education Centre - Gunnedah Campus; and
- \$2.5 million for Wetherill Park Electrical Vehicles Training Centre;

which were funded from the Commonwealth TAFE Technology Fund grants.

This represents an aggregate of \$7.5 million of Commonwealth funding, representing approximately 4.65% of the funding provided to TAFE NSW in FY2023/24.

Further detail on this funding, including which campuses will receive improved digital connectivity, has been provided in response to questions taken on notice during the hearing. It is anticipated the funds will be spent in the current financial year.

(2) What is the timeframe for the spending of this \$300 million in funding on TAFE?

- (a) For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024?
- (b) For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025?
- (c) For the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026?
- (d) For the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

All funds are planned to be expended in FY2023/24. However, as with all major capital works programs there can sometimes be delays caused by unexpected events that require funding to be carried forward into future financial years.

(3) Where this funding includes maintenance on TAFE assets, including property, fittings and equipment, is this in addition to the current maintenance budget for TAFE as provided in the NSW 2023-2024 budget?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

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Operational repairs and maintenance are funded through TAFE NSW's operational expenditure and is in addition to the \$300.9 million referenced and allocated in FY2023/24 for planned capital infrastructure investment in new and replacement assets.

(4) Which regional TAFE campuses will receive improved digital connectivity though the announced \$36 million being provided for this purpose?

(a) With regards to each of these locations, how many new digital devices will be provided through this funding?

(b) What is the timeframe for delivery of these new digital devices?

i. For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024?

ii. For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025?

iii. For the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026?

iv. For the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to transcript question 33.

**Bankstown TAFE**

(5) Can the department outline the total relocation costs associated with the Government's announced plans to dismantle Bankstown TAFE?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Some advice on this issue has been provided in response to Questions Taken on Notice during the Hearing. While the matter will be subject to further Cabinet considerations the government's commitment to Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital and TAFE NSW Bankstown Campus aligns with community development goals. Relocation plans hinge on Health Infrastructure NSW's schedule, reflecting strategic coordination between the various agencies. Costs and timeframes will be determined by the Minister for Health during the planning phase. In the meantime, TAFE NSW affirms its dedication to quality education despite relocation, with a focus on minimising disruptions. Course offerings may vary based on demand and other factors. TAFE NSW seeks space in Bankstown CBD for student learning, with plans underway. Consultation with stakeholders is standard practice for any campus changes. TAFE NSW prioritises continuous improvement and adheres to safety regulations, including asbestos management.

(6) What information was provided by the Department of Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education to the previous Government regarding relocation costs?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(7) Do the estimated relocation costs account for moving all state-of-the-art facilities currently at Bankstown TAFE, considering it's one of the largest TAFE facilities in NSW?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

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(8) What are the projected infrastructure costs associated with the relocation of Bankstown Hospital to the TAFE site, particularly in relation to the expected increase in traffic?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(9) Can the department disclose any information provided to the previous Government regarding infrastructure costs for this relocation?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(10) What are the costs associated with the announced state-of-the-art refit of the Bankstown TAFE facility on the existing campus post-hospital relocation?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(11) Can the department assure that the relocation costs will not impact the \$1.3 billion allocated for the new Bankstown Hospital?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(12) Similarly, can it be confirmed that infrastructure costs will not diminish the funds committed to the new Bankstown Hospital?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(13) When is Bankstown TAFE expected to cease operations at its current campus?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(14) What impacts on students and staff in the South West are anticipated during the TAFE's closure?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer given by the Minister during the hearing (Page 7 of the transcript).

(15) Is it possible to guarantee that there will be no job losses among TAFE teachers and staff?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

TAFE NSW affirms its dedication to quality education despite relocation, with a focus on minimising disruptions to students and employees. Course offerings may vary based on future demand and other factors which may impact on the future staffing profile.

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(16) Can the department ensure that no current TAFE courses will be cut during the relocation process?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer given by the Minister during the hearing (Page 7 of the transcript).

(17) What plans are in place to minimise disruption to student studies during this period?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer given by the Minister during the hearing (Page 7 of the transcript).

(18) Could the department provide details on the proposed relocation sites for Bankstown TAFE?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:  
Relocation sites have not been determined at this time.

(19) What leases or arrangements have been made for these relocation sites, including:

- (a) With whom?
- (b) For how long?
- (c) At what cost?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:  
The period of relocation is subject to NSW Health's program for the new hospital. Relocation sites have not been determined at this time.

(20) What impacts on students and staff regarding transport and accessibility are anticipated with the relocation?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(21) For how long will Bankstown TAFE operations be suspended at the current site?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(22) Can the department dispel concerns regarding a potential skills gap in the Southwest due to the TAFE's dismantling?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer given by the Minister during the hearing (Page 7 of the transcript).

(23) Are there any measures planned to address the expected skills gap, projected to last a minimum of 5 years?

**ANSWER**

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Please see answer given by the Minister during the hearing (Page 7 of the transcript).

(24) What standard consultation framework or protocol is followed when dismantling a NSW TAFE institution?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Staff and students will be kept informed of changes to campus operations and course delivery as NSW Health's plans are developed.

(25) What was the most recent NSW TAFE dismantled, and what were the costs associated with its relocation?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

There has not been a relocation of a large scale undertaken in recent times.

(26) Are there any learnings from previous TAFE relocations that will be applied to the Bankstown TAFE situation?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 25.

(27) Can details be provided regarding consultations with the community about plans to dismantle Bankstown TAFE?

(a) What dates did these occur?

(b) What was the type/method of communication?

**ANSWER**

Please see the answer to transcript question 36.

(28) Can the department provide copies of all public and community communications regarding the dismantling of Bankstown TAFE?

**ANSWER**

Please see the answer to transcript question 36.

(29) When did discussions between TAFE NSW and NSW Health begin regarding the TAFE's dismantling for the new hospital?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(30) Can details of meetings and discussions with relevant unions about the dismantling be listed?

**ANSWER**

Please see the answer to transcript question 36.

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(31) Have discussions occurred between TAFE NSW and Canterbury Bankstown Council regarding this plan?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:  
TAFE NSW has not engaged with Canterbury Bankstown Council in relation to the proposed relocation.

(32) Has the Minister or their office participated in any discussions or meetings about these plans?

**ANSWER**

The Minister has been briefed on this issue.

(33) What communications have been provided to relevant unions regarding the TAFE's dismantling?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 30.

(34) Why was there no mention by NSW Labor during the 2023 State Election campaign about these plans?

**ANSWER**

As the Liberal/National party were in Government prior to March 2023, there was no access to departmental advice about site suitability for the new Bankstown hospital.

(35) What will happen to the TAFE's relocation site once it returns to the original Bankstown location?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(36) What assurances can be provided that Bankstown TAFE will be reinstated at its original campus?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 5.

(37) Are there any concerns regarding asbestos soil contamination at the Bankstown TAFE site, and what remediation plans are in place?

- (a) Have you conducted testing?
- (b) Is there a budget for remediation if needed?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:  
Soil testing for asbestos has been conducted on Bankstown TAFE NSW campus. Based on this report there are no concerns regarding asbestos soil contamination at Bankstown campus and as such no remediation plans or budgets have been set. TAFE NSW adheres to NSW WHS Regulation 2017 which outlines requirements for periodic reinspection for asbestos.

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(38) How many times has the Minister visited Bankstown TAFE in:

(a) 2023?

(b) 2024?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer given by the Minister during the hearing (Page 7 of the transcript).

(39) How many times has the Minister visited the Western Sydney University campus at Milperra in:

(a) 2023?

(b) 2024?

**ANSWER**

I have not yet visited the Western Sydney University Milperra campus.

**Milperra High School**

(40) In a 2020 Facebook post Ms Car said: “Any new development on the Western Sydney University campus at Milperra must include a new high school. Time to get it right for once.” What is the status of the announced school?

**ANSWER**

These questions were asked and answered by the Deputy Premier of NSW, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney following the Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolio.

(41) Any committed budget provisions for the announced new school?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 40.

(42) Has there been any past, current or planned community consultation relating to the announced high school?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 40.

(43) Is there a time frame for construction, including commencement and completion?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 40.

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(44) Minister how do you respond to comments from local parents who report - "Every high school and primary school are at capacity and the demand is only being met through the use of demountable classrooms?"

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 40.

(45) What schools are within close proximity to WSU Milperra site and the number of enrolled students at the respective schools?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 40.

### Procurement

(46) How much money has the Department and its agencies spent on products purchased from Hewlett Packard (inclusive of HP Enterprise businesses, HP end-user businesses, and any other businesses representing the Hewlett Packard brand) (HP):

(a) Please provide this information for each financial year since 2018/19 including 2023/24 to 31 December 2023, divided by agency, and include a short description of the kinds of products purchased for each agency each year, including whether any money has been spent since 7 October 2023.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Department of Customer Service (DCS) undertook an open-market procurement process in accordance with NSW Government procurement manual in establishing the All-of-Government panel for End User Devices and Services (C9826). The due diligence checks include compliance to applicable NSW Government policies such as Supplier Code of Conduct, NSW Government Procurement Policy, NSW Government Small and Medium Enterprise and Regional Procurement Policy and and NSW Aboriginal Procurement Policy and applicable legislation and standards such as NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017, NSW Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998, and Modern Slavery Act 2018 NSW.

(47) What policies and procedures does the Department and its agencies use to ensure that procurement is ethical and meets community standards?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 46.

(48) If the Department or any of its agencies procure products from Hewlett Packard (meaning any business representing the Hewlett Packard brand), what probity checks have been done to investigate whether HP is involved in the 'plausible genocide' taking place in Gaza?

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 46.



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(49) How many contractors currently work within the Department?

**ANSWER**

As at 11 March 2024, there were 1,034 contractors engaged in the Department of Education.

As at 29 February 2024, there were 286 contractors engaged in TAFE NSW.

(50) How many contractors have been on contracts longer than

- (a) 3 months
- (b) 6 months
- (c) 12 month
- (d) 18 months
- (e) 24 months
- (f) 36 months

**ANSWER**

Of the 1,034 contractors engaged by the Department of Education as at 11 March 2024:

- (a) 970 contractors have been on contracts longer than 3 months
- (b) 892 contractors have been on contracts longer than 6 months
- (c) 644 contractors have been on contracts longer than 12 months
- (d) 457 contractors have been on contracts longer than 18 months
- (e) 347 contractors have been on contracts longer than 24 months
- (f) 216 contractors have been on contracts longer than 36 months

Please note that the data in (a) to (f) above should not be added to derive the total number of contractors engaged by the Department as at 11 March 2024. Each data is provided in isolation based on how many contractors, as at 11 March 2024, had contract periods falling within the above specified timeframes.

Of the contractors engaged by TAFE NSW as at 29 February 2024:

- (a) 3 months: 38
- (b) 6 months: 51
- (c) 12 months: 60
- (d) 18 months: 20
- (e) 24 months: 39
- (f) 36 months: 45

(51) What is the longest period of continuous employment for a contractor employed by the Department or its agencies?

**ANSWER**

As at 11 March 2024, the longest period of continuous engagement for a contractor engaged by the Department of Education (excluding TAFE and NESAs) is 8.6 years.

Data on contractor engagements first became available as part of the implementation of the NSW Government Contractor Central model on 3 August 2015. It is possible that some contractors with current continuous engagement were engaged prior to 3 August 2015, however this data cannot be validated.

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As at 29 February 2024, the longest period of continuous engagement for a contractor engaged by TAFE NSW is 111 months.