



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 14

WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2007

(The Questions and Answers Paper published for the first sitting day in each week will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting and any new questions. On subsequent days, new questions are printed, as are questions to which answers were received the previous day. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 4 (Including Question Nos 0038 to 0041)	03 July 2007
Q & A No. 5 (Including Question Nos 0042 to 0058)	04 July 2007
Q & A No. 6 (Including Question Nos 0059 to 0080)	05 July 2007
Q & A No. 7 (Including Question Nos 0081 to 0087)	10 July 2007
Q & A No. 8 (Including Question Nos 0088 to 0089)	11 July 2007
Q & A No. 9 (Including Question Nos 0090 to 0105)	12 July 2007
Q & A No. 10 (Including Question Nos 0106 to 0107)	24 July 2007
Q & A No. 11 (Including Question Nos 0108 to 0109)	25 July 2007
Q & A No. 12 (Including Question Nos 0110 to 0124)	26 July 2007
Q & A No. 13 (Including Question Nos 0125 to 0128)	31 July 2007
Q & A No. 14 (Including Question Nos 0129 to 0144)	01 August 2007

27 JUNE 2007

(Paper No. 14)

- 0129 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—INTERNET FILTERING—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- (1)
 - (a) Have any steps been taken to ensure that internet filtering is not undermining the benefits of school internet connection?
 - (b) If so, what?
 - (2) What steps have been taken to ensure that valuable time is not wasted requesting that a site be unblocked or trying alternate non-filtered search engines to locate information?
- 0130 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—SCHOOL LIBRARY CATALOGUES—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- (1)
 - (a) Is the OASIS school library automated system being replaced?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (2)
 - (a) Is the Department designing its own replacement?
 - (b) If so, are there commercial products available that are suited to the needs of school libraries?
 - (3) What steps has the Department taken to ensure that school library catalogues are available online?
 - (4) What steps has the Department taken to ensure that school library catalogues link learners with information which has been specifically pre-selected to support the curriculum by subject and information specialists and evaluated for relevancy and for appropriate content, language and reading levels?
- 0131 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—PRIMARY TEACHER-LIBRARIANS—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- (1)
 - (a) Are primary teacher-librarians still required to provide one hour of teacher relief from face to face teaching (RFF)?
 - (b) If so, does this prevent them from fulfilling their professional role as collaborative partner in the teaching and assessing of information literacy skills in the school teaching and learning program?
 - (2) Why have the RFF teacher positions that were cut in 1988 by a previous government not been restored?
 - (3)
 - (a) According to the staffing formula for teacher librarians, are support classes counted as classes for the purposes of RFF, yet not counted as classes for the teacher librarian staffing allocation?
 - (b) If so, why?
 - (4)
 - (a) Do some school libraries not have support staff?
 - (b) If so, why?
- 0132 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICES—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has recent research linked quality school library programs with improved student academic achievement?
 - (2) What guidelines, targets, and strategic plans are in place for the development of school library resource centres, resource-based learning and information literacy programs in schools, in order to develop best practice and best student outcomes?
 - (3) What specific in-service training is in place for school principals in the modern role of the professionally qualified teacher librarian in contributing to the school teaching and learning program?
 - (4) What guidelines are available within the Department of Education and Training for principals to evaluate and guide the strategic development of their school library services and the development of whole school information literature communities?
 - (5)
 - (a) Are the Standards of Professional Excellence for Teacher Librarians (ALIA/ASLA, 2004) and the national standards for school libraries, Learning for the Future: Developing Information Services in Schools (ASLA/ALIA, 2001) used in professional development for principals?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (6)
 - (a) What steps can teachers take to improve the quality of their teaching through collaboration with the school teacher librarian?
 - (b) Are in-services conducted for these teachers?
 - (7)
 - (a) What attempts are being made to include information literacy in pre-service training for teachers, including the role of the teacher-librarian and cooperative planning and teaching?
 - (b) What further steps will be taken?
- 0133 ENERGY—NUCLEAR ENERGY—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) How many employees of the Department of Energy or other state government agency have specific expertise or education that would enable them to develop policy or provide advice in the area of nuclear energy and in particular the economic impacts, environmental risks, technological risks and long term impacts?
 - (2) What steps is the government taking to ensure that nuclear facilities are not developed or operated in New South Wales?
- 0134 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—VETAB MONITORING OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- (1) What steps is the Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Board (VETAB) taking to ensure that registered training organisations (RTOs) are providing the educational services which they advertise and for which students enrol?
 - (2) In each of the last five years, how many RTOs has VETAB found to be non-compliant in respect to graduating students who have not attended sufficient classes to satisfy the requirements of their qualifications?
 - (3)
 - (a) Has VETAB taken steps to investigate allegations made in the article "Cooks galore and hairdressers aplenty", published in the March 2007 issue of People in Place journal by Bob Birrell, Ernest Healy and Bob Kinnaird?
 - (b) If so, what were the results of those investigations?
 - (4)
 - (a) In each of the last five years, how many complaints has VETAB received in relation to the treatment of international students?
 - (b) Of these complaints, how many have resulted in suspension or cancellation of registration of the

RTO?

(5)

- (a) Is VETAB currently investigating the Sydney International College of Business Pty Ltd for alleged non-compliance with RTO standards or registration and accreditation guidelines?
- (b) Is VETAB currently investigating the Sydney International College of Business Pty Ltd in respect of any other matters?
- (c) If so, what other matters are being investigated?

0135 WATER UTILITIES—DESALINATION PLANT TRENCH—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

(1)

- (a) Will the trench being constructed under Botany Bay from the desalination plant in Kurnell to Kyeemagh only carry two water pipes from the desalination plant and not carry any other services?
- (b) If so, why is the trench so deep and wide when it is designed to carry only two 1,400 millimetre diameter pipes laid side by side?

0136 INFRASTRUCTURE—RISK MANAGEMENT—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

(1)

- (a) Have Risk Mitigation Plans or equivalent been developed for infrastructure in New South Wales to reduce the likelihood and frequency of future loss of life, injuries and damage to property resulting from inadequate maintenance, poor quality design or the failure to refurbish or replace aging infrastructure?
- (b) If so, have these plans been implemented and assessed?
- (c) If not, will such plans be developed?
 - (i) If not, why not?

(2)

- (a) Have any steps been taken to minimise risk of collisions at rail crossings in New South Wales?
- (b) If not, why not?

(3)

- (a) Are there any plans for any civil engineering works to reduce the risk of floods in Newcastle and in the Hunter?
- (b) If so, what are these plans?
- (c) If not, why not?

(4) What steps have been taken to secure increased funding from the Commonwealth for investing in infrastructure in New South Wales?

0137 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FUNDING—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

(1) Please provide a single spreadsheet in Excel or csv format with the following data for each private or non-government school in New South Wales in 2006/2007:

- (a) What is the suburb of that school?
- (b) What is the postcode of the school?
- (c) What is the Education Resource Index funding category of that school?
- (d) What was the total primary school student enrolment of that school?
- (e) What was the total secondary school student enrolment of that school?
- (f) How much was paid to that school in Per Capita Allowances?

- (g) How much was paid to that school in Textbook Subsidies?
 (h) How much was paid to that school in Interest Subsidies?
 (i) How much was paid to that school in Supervisor Subsidies?
- (2) If this data is not yet available, when will this data be available?
- 0138 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—CATEGORY 1 TO 12 SCHOOLS' FUNDING—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- (1) For each private school funding category (1 to 12) for the school year 2006/2007:
- (a) How much was paid per student in non-government schools Per Capita Allowances in that year for schools in that category?
 (b) What was the total amount paid in non-government schools Per Capita Allowances to schools in that category in that year?
 (c) What was the total amount paid in interest rate subsidies to all schools in that category in that year?
- 0139 PORTS AND WATERWAYS—ROSE BAY MARINA DEVELOPMENT—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Small Business and Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- (1) Have large amounts of the noxious aquatic weed *Caulerpa taxifolia* been found in Rose Bay?
 (2)
 (a) Did NSW Maritime investigate the extent of infestation of the noxious aquatic weed *Caulerpa taxifolia* when assessing the Rose Bay Marina Development application by Addenbrooke?
 (b) If not, will the NSW Fisheries *Caulerpa* survey at Rose Bay be updated?
 (3) Could NSW Maritime's conditional consent for the Rose Bay Marina Development be met if there is an outbreak of *Caulerpa taxifolia* in Rose Bay that gives rise to a significant risk that the proposed development will increase the spread and hinder the effective management and removal of the noxious aquatic weed *Caulerpa taxifolia*?
- 0140 COMMUNITY SERVICES—CARERS CARD—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce representing the Minister for Community Services—
- (1) Will a Carers Card that will give financial benefits to carers, as well as recognise their work, be introduced in New South Wales?
 (a) If so:
 (i) When will such a card be introduced?
 (ii) What benefits will the card provide?
 (b) If not, why not?
- 0141 AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES—CARERS CARD—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- (1) Will a Carers Card that will give financial benefits to carers, as well as recognise their work, be introduced in New South Wales?
 (a) If so:
 (i) When will such a card be introduced?
 (ii) What benefits will the card provide?
 (b) If not, why not?
- 0142 MINERAL RESOURCES—WARATAH RIVULET—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Did the Sydney Catchment Authority inform the Government that it had "requested the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 13 October 2004 to urgently investigate the damage [to the Waratah Rivulet in the Woronora Special Area by Metropolitan Colliery] and to exercise a precautionary approach in preventing further damage to the rivulet" in a 2004 Ministerial Briefing Note dated 6 December 2004?
- (2)
 - (a) Did the DPI investigate this report?
 - (b) If so,
 - (i) On what date was the report investigated?
 - (ii) What were the results of the DPI's investigations?
 - (iii) Did the results of the investigation or any other advice the Department received lead to the continuing of mining unabated?
 - (iv) Did any party recommend that mining should cease?
 - (c) If not, why not?
- (3) Has catastrophic damage occurred to the rivulet since 13 October 2004, causing the riverbed to drain
- (4)
 - (a) Has the precautionary principle been exercised in preventing further damage to the Waratah Rivulet?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (c) On what advice did you base this decision?
 - (d) Did you receive any advice that the precautionary principle should be applied to mining in that area?
- (5)
 - (a) Did the Minister describe the Waratah Rivulet as being "repaired" on ABC News on 19 December 2006?
 - (b) Did the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) make it clear to the Department that there was no proof that water had not been lost to the catchment on 2 August 2006, and that it had "consistently expressed its concern to the DPI and Helensburgh Coal regarding the impacts and the lack of solid evidence that remediation is being effective" on 26 June 2006?
 - (c) Does SCA's Senior Environmental Scientist believe that remediation has not been successful in the catchments?
 - (d) Was further mining approved in September last year when the SCA had gone to great lengths to bring their concerns to the attention of the Minister and the Department?
 - (i) If so, why?

0143 MINERAL RESOURCES—GLOUCESTER COAL—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What is the estimated saleable coal potential from Gloucester Coal's proposed exploration in Gloucester under ELA2635?
- (2) What percentage of coal does the Department of Mineral Resources estimate this proposed mine could yield? How does this compare with the total amount of coal produced for the Gloucester region?
- (3) What studies, reports or assessments has your department or your office prepared or received about the current status of the local rivers and waterways, including Mammy Johnson's River or the Karuah River, or the threat of damage to the waterways and rivers impacted by this proposal?
- (4) How much money has your department spent on examining the economic impact of this proposal on the local economy, community or environment of Gloucester?
- (5) If the exploration licence is granted, what rights will exist for landholders whose land value has been affected, before any drilling commences?

- (6) Will landholders who need to negotiate with the applicant for access be given a detailed map showing the exact location of the ELA in relation to roads, watercourses, property boundaries and other topographical features?
- (7) What measures does the applicant intend to take to mitigate the impact on flora, fauna, watercourses and areas of high conservation value? Please give details of this.
- (8) What are the required particulars that must be submitted by the applicant in support of the exploration application? Please give details.

0144 MINERAL RESOURCES—GLOUCESTER COAL AND GLEN NATURE RESERVE—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many letters has the Minister or his department received regarding the mining exploration licence ELA 2635 lodged by Gloucester Coal?
- (2) What action has been taken to investigate the issues and concerns raised with you by landholders?
- (3) What investigation has been carried out regarding the impact of the proposal on the Glen Nature Reserve?
- (4) How do you plan to consult with the concerned members of the local community with regards to the Glen Nature Reserve?
- (5) Do you plan to provide a copy of the EIS for the above project to local landholders?
- (6) What other departments have you conferred with about the Glen Nature Reserve? Please detail which departments you have liaised with.
- (7) What advice have you received from other departments regarding the Glen Nature Reserve?

Lynn Lovelock
Acting Clerk of the Parliaments