



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (Kamper)

Hearing: Wednesday 28 August 2024

Answers due by: 5pm, Wednesday 25 September 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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| Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC |
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Domestic violence

- (1) What additional steps is the NSW Government taking to address domestic and family violence in multicultural communities, particularly in relation to:
 - (a) funding,
 - (b) building a workforce of multicultural specialist workers,
 - (c) co-designed and community-led primary prevention and early intervention, and
 - (d) access to income support, health care and housing for people on temporary visas?
- (2) Will the NSW Government commit to establishing a Domestic and Family Violence Multicultural Committee as part of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council to inform whole-of-government strategies at the intersections of multiculturalism and domestic and family violence?
 - (a) If not, why not?

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| Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition) |
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SMALL BUSINESS

Issues with DNSP (Distribution Network Service Provider)-owned Businesses

- (3) Electrical SMEs are increasingly finding themselves at a disadvantage, competing against DNSP-owned entities that exploit lax ring-fencing regulations to cross-subsidise operations and share staff. While the regulation of this issue largely falls under federal jurisdiction, what steps is the state government taking to address this dysfunction and advocate for the interests of SMEs within our jurisdiction?
 - (a) How is it fair to those local business owners who invest in their workforce and equipment to compete against DNSP-owned entities legitimately?
 - (b) What is the impact on electricity consumers who, as a result, are burdened with inflated costs in their electricity bills?

Challenge the government's fairness in handling COVID-19 grant repayments

- (4) What action has the Government taken to ensure fairness in determining fraudulent activity with regard to the COVID-19 grant?
- (5) How many small businesses have been asked to pay back the micro business loan?
 - (a) Of those businesses how many have paid the money back?

Interest rates

- (6) Could you provide more insights into how current economic factors, including interest rates, are impacting small businesses?
 - (a) What specific measures are being considered to address these challenges?
- (7) In light of the ongoing difficulties faced by small businesses, could you elaborate on the types of support being prioritized to alleviate these pressures?

Red Tape:

- (8) Regarding the reduction of red tape, could you share some examples or success stories that illustrate how these efforts are benefiting small businesses in practical terms?

Minister's diary

- (9) Can the Minister clarify why there has only been one roundtable and two other meetings with small business representatives?
 - (a) How does this level of engagement align with the needs of the small business community?
- (10) Could the Minister provide specific examples or data to support his claim of daily interactions with small businesses, and how these interactions have informed his policy decisions?
- (11) How does the Minister plan to address concerns about the perceived lack of stakeholder discussion?
 - (a) What steps will be taken to ensure more comprehensive engagement moving forward?
- (12) What measurable outcomes or actions have resulted from the Minister's reported daily interactions with small businesses, particularly in light of the limited formal meetings?

Retrospective Application of Payroll Tax