

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Westra van Holthe to Treasurer

Treasury Portfolio Finance

As of 1 July 2011:

Promotion and Advertising

- 1. How much was spent on promotion of Territory Bonds in 2010/2011.**

For 2010-2011, the expenditure on the promotion of Territory Bonds was \$6230. The advice provided to the Estimates Committee was \$5000, which was the amount spent to 31 May 2011.

- 2. How much was spent on the Buy Territory campaign in 2010/11.**

As Treasury is not responsible for this campaign, it does not have access to this level of detail.

Unemployment

- 3. What is the current projection for unemployment in the NT across the forward estimates period.**

Treasury forecast the Territory's unemployment rate to average 2.7 per cent in 2010-11 and 3.0 per cent in 2011-12. Forecasts are not provided for the later years of the forward estimates.

Public Sector Spending

- 4. How many departments met the targets of an efficiency dividend in the 2009/10 year and in the 2010/11 year.**

The efficiency dividend is applied to the Territory funded component of operational and employee costs. For 2009-10 the efficiency dividend was 3 per cent and in 2010-11, 2 per cent. For key service delivery agencies with fixed staffing costs (police, health, education and correctional services) one-quarter of the dividend is applied.

Efficiency dividends are incorporated into each agency's Budget as published in the respective year's Budget Paper No 3.

Agency financial performance is assessed at a whole of agency level and can be affected by a number of variations including changes in demand and costs. These variations are reported in agency annual reports and in the unaudited section of the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report.

5. What is the projected saving in 2011/12 against 2010/11 from a public sector hiring freeze.

The staffing cap is not a public sector hiring freeze.

The staffing cap is an average full time equivalent (FTE) employment level which is consistent with agency's approved employee expense budgets and reinforces the importance of agencies staying within their approved budget allocations. Agencies are expected to respond to priority service requirements and front line service demands while staying within their overall budget allocation and staffing cap. Savings in the Budget and Forward Estimates are as a result of the efficiency dividend and approved re-prioritisation of expenditure rather than the application of the staffing cap.

6. What is the projection of total public sector employees in each of the forward years to 2014-15.

Forward estimates reflect approved Budget Outlays. Staffing allocations are not specified. Agencies are required to manage future services and staff within the approved forward estimates.

Government Asset Sales

7. What items are included in the area of assets sales revenue in the 2011/12 Budget and what specific items are valued at more than \$5 Million.

Government asset sales largely include the sale of vehicles, land and public housing. The revenue from each asset type is re-invested and offsets the cost of new assets.

| Sales of non-financial assets | 2011-12 | |
|---|----------------|--|
| | \$000 | |
| Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services | 4 692 | Estimate of police fleet vehicle sales |
| NT Home Ownership | 12 750 | Estimated value of Territory's share of shared equity loans when loans are paid out |
| Land Development Corporation | 26 021 | Estimated sale of industrial land |
| Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services | 19 000 | Estimated value of public housing sales to tenants used to fund reinvestment in public housing stock |
| NT Fleet | 23 500 | Estimate of vehicle fleet sales |
| Department of Lands and Planning | 13 199 | Estimate of land sales |
| Other | 255 | |
| General Government | 99 417 | |

BuildBonus

- 8. How much has been spent advertising the BuildBonus scheme.**

The expenditure on BuildBonus advertising in 2010-11 was \$11 639.

- 9. How many applications have been made for the BuildBonus scheme.**

To date, three applications have been received, all of which relate to Bellamack in Palmerston.

There have also been about 180 telephone and email queries.

As was the case with Buildstart, it is expected that more grants will be paid some time after the commencement of the scheme as owners purchase land and then enter into building contracts or eligible off-the-plan contracts.

- 10. How many applications have you received since the 4th May? How many in Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek.**

Refer answer to question 9.

- 11. How many additional dwellings are predicted to be constructed because of this incentive.**

The current estimate is for 345 BuildBonus grants to be paid.

Seniors Concession

- 12. How many seniors accessed the Seniors Stamp Duty concession rebate in 2010-11.**

In 2010-11, a total of 61 Senior, Pensioner and Carer stamp duty concessions were provided.

Growth Towns

- 13. How much is set aside for capital investment in growth towns in 2011/12.**

Capital investment of \$633 million has been identified for the Territory Government's Working Future policy in 2011-12.

- 14. What are the major capital projects that are being funded.**

The \$633 million includes the following major projects:

- Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (\$387.7 million)
- Port Keats Road (\$28.9 million)
- Umbakumba Road (\$17.9 million)
- Trade Training Centres (\$12.4 million)
- Remote Police Stations (\$26.2 million)
- Wadeye Power Station (\$17.8 million)
- Building the Education Revolution (\$8.2 million)

15. Are they Territory or Commonwealth investments.

These projects are funded by both the Territory and Commonwealth governments, with the Territory contributing over 31%.

Marine Supply Base

16. How is the government going to fund the marine supply base.

Government has called for Expressions of Interest for a private sector consortium to finance, build and operate the MSB. Three companies were short listed and are in the process of preparing detailed proposals. The process is not finalised and commercial discussions are ongoing. No decision has been made on any government contribution at this stage.

17. How much has the government allocated for its contribution to this project, and is the contribution through a lease commitment, land ownership or cash payment.

Refer to question 16.

Commonwealth

18. What is the additional cost to the Northern Territory of the Commonwealth means testing child care rebates.

There is no known additional cost to the Northern Territory Government.

19. What are the number of public sector employees whose positions are tied to Commonwealth funding of the BER, SIHIP and the Intervention and are budgeted to finish in 2011/12, by project.

Employees that are tied to Commonwealth funded initiatives are generally employed on a time limited contract that is aligned to the period of the funding agreement. In the case of capital projects such as the BER these are managed by the Department of Construction and Infrastructure, which utilises project managers and contracted consultants for a range of projects on the Territory's overall Capital Works program.
