Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL — Thursday, 14 March 2024] p864d-865a Hon Neil Thomson; Hon Stephen Dawson

TREASURER'S ADVANCE 2023-24 — ADDITIONAL FUNDING

153. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Treasurer:

I refer to the Treasurer's advance that will take the total TA to \$3.2 billion, as noted in the Treasury presentation of 12 March 2024, and the inclusion of further TA impacts in 2023–24 to cover funding requirements that may emerge as part of the 2024–25 budget.

- (1) Noting the funds will need to be spent by 30 June 2024 and the limited time left to spend them, can the Treasurer itemise what the additional \$1.3 billion will be required for?
- (2) If no to (1), does this reflect poorly on the fiscal accountability in the state?

The PRESIDENT: Minister for Emergency Services, noting that the question is seeking a lot of information.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

It is a concise answer. I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Treasurer.

(1)–(2) Consistent with previous years, the \$1.3 billion allowance is for funding requirements that may emerge to 30 June 2024, including unforeseen events like natural disasters and movements in timing of revenues such as commonwealth funding. The Treasurer's advance provides the legal authority to draw funds if required, but it does not commit the state government to any other additional spending.