

GREAT COCKY COUNT

24. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Is the Department of Environment and Conservation currently recruiting for volunteers to take part in the 2012 Great Cocky Count?
- (2) When will the 2012 Great Cocky Count be conducted?
- (3) Given that the results of the 2010 Great Cocky Count were made public just four months after the count took place, why have the 2011 results still not been released after 11 months?
- (4) Noting the minister's answer to my question about this delay last October, can the minister inform the house exactly what "analysis, interpretation and review" he believes the 2011 results require prior to release?
- (5) How do the preliminary results that the minister said he had seen last October differ from the results that are presumably sitting on his desk following the "analysis, interpretation and review"?
- (6) When will the minister release the 2011 results?
- (7) Is DEC aware of volunteers who are refusing to take part in the 2012 Great Cocky Count because the 2011 results have not been made public?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The recruiting of volunteers for the 2012 Great Cocky Count is being coordinated by Birdlife Australia.
- (2) Sunday, 15 April.
- (3)–(4) The draft 2011 Great Cocky Count report also included results from the 2010 count and interpretation of the changes between 2010 and 2011, as well as additional information on the species. There was therefore a greater need to review and edit the 2011 report compared with the 2010 report.
- (5) The results have not changed. The changes to the draft report related primarily to additional analysis carried out of the relationship between feeding habitat and roosting birds, and normal review and editing prior to publication.
- (6) The report will be released jointly by Birdlife Australia and the Department of Environment and Conservation, and is imminent.
- (7) No.