WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No. 59

WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2014

Memo: The electronic publication of Questions on Notice as part of the Notice Paper is available on the Parliament's Internet site at www.parliament.wa.gov.au.

Questions postponed from previous sittings: -

	Tuesday, 29 October 2013
1336.	Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy

Wednesday, 13 November 2013

- 1564. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister for Transport
- 1565. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Regional Development

Wednesday, 20 November 2013

- 1571. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer
- 1572. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister for Health

Wednesday, 27 November 2013

1596. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister for Transport

Wednesday, 4 December 2013

1608. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Fisheries

Thursday, 5 December 2013

- 1612. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries
- 1613. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries
- 1614. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries
- 1615. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries
- 1616. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries
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- 1623. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries
- 1624. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries
- 1639. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1640. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer
- 1641. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer
- 1646. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Transport
- 1647. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Transport
- 1659. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Water
- 1660. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Water

Tuesday, 18 February 2014

- 1661. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- 1662. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- 1663. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister for Transport
- 1664. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister for Transport
- 1665. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister for Environment
- 1666. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister for Environment
- 1667. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister for Environment
- 1668. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister for Housing
- 1669. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1670. Mr P. Papalia to the Treasurer
- 1671. Mr P. Papalia to the Minister for Corrective Services
- 1672. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1673. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Science
- 1674. Mr M. McGowan to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Training and Workforce Development
- 1675. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development
- 1676. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs
- 1677. Mr M. McGowan to the Treasurer; Minister for Transport
- 1678. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Planning; Culture and the Arts
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- 1680. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection
- 1681. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Attorney General; Minister for Commerce
- 1682. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Housing
- 1683. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Sport and Recreation; Racing and Gaming
- 1684. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries
- 1685. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Energy; Finance; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

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- 1832. Mr P. Papalia to the Minister for Community Services
- 1833. Mr P. Papalia to the Minister representing the Attorney General
- 1834. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- 1835. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1836. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Police
- 1837. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Regional Development

Questions listed for this sitting: -

1838. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme (HUGS) and ask:

- (a) in the financial year 2011–2012, how many people applied for the HUGS in:
 - (i) Thornlie;
 - (ii) Gosnells;
 - (iii) Maddington; and
 - (iv) Huntingdale;
- (b) how many of these applications were successful in each suburb;
- (c) in the financial year 2012–2013, how many people applied for the HUGS in:
 - (i) Thornlie;
 - (ii) Gosnells;
 - (iii) Maddington; and
 - (iv) Huntingdale; and
- (d) how many of these in each suburb were successful?

1839. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Since 1 July 2013, will the Minister advise if he, or any member of his Ministerial office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of the WACA board or senior management, if yes:

- (a) what were the dates of the contact or meetings;
- (b) what was the nature or subject of the contact or meetings; and
- (c) who was present during the contact or meetings?

1840. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to media reports regarding cricket moving to the new Perth stadium once it is completed, and ask:

- (a) is it the Government's plan to have cricket played at the new stadium;
- (b) does this include all forms of the game, both domestic and international; and
- (c) what are the Government's plans for the short and long term future of the WACA Ground?

1841. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier:

Since 1 July 2013, will the Minister advise if he, or any member of his office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of the WACA board or senior management, if yes:

- (a) what were the dates of the contact or meetings;
- (b) what was the nature or subject of the contact or meetings; and
- (c) who was present during the contact or meetings?

1842. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Tourism:

Since 1 July 2013, will the Minister advise if she, or any member of her Ministerial office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of the WACA board or senior management, if yes:

- (a) what were the dates of the contact or meetings;
- (b) what was the nature or subject of the contact or meetings; and
- (c) who were present during the contact or meetings?

1843. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) and ask:

- (a) is there a defined system for assessing the appropriate level and type of offset for environmental approvals;
- (b) is the Minister aware of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) submission to the OEPA on its Environmental Offsets Guidelines;
- (c) is the Minister aware that the mining industry is concerned at the manner in which environmental offsets have been applied to date in Western Australia;
- (d) is the Minister aware that other offset guidelines may be in development, and if so, what are they;
- (e) is the Minister aware of the examples highlighted by AMEC of a lack of consistency and transparency in the application of the Western Australian offsets policy;
- (f) is the Minister aware of the system of administration of cash payments as offsets and the lack of governance processes for managing the payments;
- (g) has the Government consulted industry about the cash offset framework;
- (h) is the Minister aware whether the offsets guidelines are applied consistently across all projects under environmental assessment by the regulator; and
- (i) is the Minister prepared to act on AMEC's request that to improve openness, transparency and accountability of the environmental offsets decision-making process a quantitative method that shows what offsets are accepted by the EPA should be developed?

1844. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

- (a) since the election of the Barnett Government in 2008 how many proposals have been determined;
- (b) how many approvals were granted in the years 2008–2009, 2009–2010, 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and until December 2013;
- (c) how many proposals were recommended to be approved;
- (d) which proposals were not recommended for approval; and
- (e) have approval times been reduced and by how much?

1845. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) and ask:

- (a) while reducing the number of levels of OEPA assessment from five to two, has the number of permits required to open a mine increased;
- (b) is the Minister considering a requirement for works approvals and licences for mining and petroleum activities to be incorporated into the mining and petroleum approvals processes; and
- (c) if not why not?

1846. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) and ask, is the Minister considering the establishment of an independent 'approvals reform office' responsible for overseeing the implementation of government-endorsed reform recommendations, and if not, why not?

1847. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

- (a) is the Minister satisfied that the decision to block the development of the Vasse Coal Project by LD Operations Ltd was a transparent and fair process; and
- (b) if yes, can the Minister explain how the decision was made in a fair and transparent manner?

1848. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

- (a) will the Government introduce fees for the provision of environmental impact assessments and compliance audits in 2013–2014; and
- (b) if yes, how much is expected to be raised in 2013–2014 and the forward years of the budget?

1849. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

- (a) in 2012–2013 how many breaches were there of non-compliance with conditions set under Ministerial approvals and how many so far this financial year; and
- (b) what enforcement action was taken in each case?

1850. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask in regards to the OEPA's specific statutory responsibilities to monitor compliance with Ministerial Conditions of implementation, will the OEPA continue to perform this function or will it be transferred to the Department of Environmental Regulation?

1851. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

- how many non-compliances were there for emissions into the environment in 2008–2009, 2009–2010, 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013;
- (b) which entities were found to be non-compliant regarding emissions into the environment; and
- (c) what action ensued?

1852. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

- how many non-compliances of offset conditions were there in 2008–2009, 2009–2010, 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013;
- (b) which entities were found to be non-compliant regarding offset conditions; and
- (c) what action ensued?

1853. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

- how many non-compliances were there of waste water outfalls in 2008–2009, 2009–2010, 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013;
- (b) which entities were found to be non-compliant regarding offset waste water outfalls; and
- (c) what action ensued?

1854. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) and ask how many environmental impact assessments for development proposals, planning schemes and strategic proposals has the OEPA in completed in 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013?

1855. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask how many environmental impact assessments were completed for iron ore, minerals sands, industrial, oil and gas, uranium and other mineral projects in 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013?

1856. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask how many environmental compliance audits were conducted in 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013?

1857. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask:

- (a) how many new or amended policies has the OEPA developed in 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013; and
- (b) what are they?

1858. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) and ask:

- (a) why have the total expenses of the OEPA increased from \$13.991 million in 2012 to \$17.513 million in 2013;
- (b) why was there a variance of \$812,313 in the budget estimate for 2013 to the budget actual in 2013 for the total cost of the OEPA;
- (c) why did the costs of environmental assessments on average increase by \$3,652 in 2012–2013; and
- (d) when is the OEPA going to become a fee for service agency?

1859. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask how long has the OEPA been assessing Kintyre, Yeelirrie and Lake Maitland uranium proposals and when are they expected to be completed?

1860. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask:

- (a) what is the average length of time taken by the OEPA to approve Environmental Management Plans;
- (b) of the twenty-three Environmental Management Plans not completed in 2012–2013 how many have still not been completed, and why; and
- (c) which plans have not been completed?

1861. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask:

- (a) when did the OEPA commence reviewing and revising the State Environment (Cockburn Sound) Policy 2005 and when will it be released for public comment;
- (b) is it correct that the State Environmental (Cockburn Sound) Policy 2005 is not enforceable at law; and
- (c) if yes, has the Government any plans to make the policy enforceable?

1862. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask:

(a) the Fertiliser Partnership 2012–2016 will try to reduce nutrient loss to waterways by 50 percent, has there been any monitoring of the effectiveness of this measure to date, and what do those results indicate?

1863. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask:

- (a) how much money has the OEPA spent on communications in 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 and up until December 2013; and
- (b) what significant developments have occurred in this area and what have they cost?

1864. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and the audit of the Gorgon Gas Development by the OPEA and ask:

(a) were any matters or concerns raised by the audit; and

(b) if yes to (a), what were they and have they been resolved with the proponent?

1865. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask:

- (a) how many times has the OEPA 'stopped the clock' in assessments since July 1 2012; and
- (b) which proposals were they, how much time was taken and what were the reasons?

1866. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and ask does the Minister propose to address procedural weaknesses of the appeals process under the Environmental Protection Act?

1867. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask:

- (a) since 1 July 2012, how many times have senior executives of the EPA and OEPA travelled for business purposes, to where and at what cost; and
- (b) how many staff of the OEPA have been granted study leave since 1 July 2012 and how much time was taken in total?

1868. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) and ask:

- (a) what was the rate of staff absenteeism in the OEPA in 2012–2013;
- (b) have there been any reported instances of theft, fraud or corruption by staff of the OEPA since 1 July 2012;
- (c) if yes, how many and what were the circumstances;
- (d) how many complaints of sexual harassment, bullying or intimidation have been lodged by staff since 1 July 2012;
- (e) what is the number of full-time equivalents in the OEPA; and
- (f) how many full-time equivalent positions are currently not filled in the OEPA?

PETER J. McHUGH	
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly	
•	