

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No. 8

THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2005

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**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](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au).

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### Questions postponed from previous sittings: -

Wednesday, 30 March 2005

1. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
2. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
3. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Disability Services

Tuesday, 5 April 2005

4. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
5. Dr E. Constable to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training
6. Dr E. Constable to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training
7. Dr E. Constable to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training
8. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Justice
9. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Justice
10. Dr E. Constable to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training
11. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
12. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Wednesday, 6 April 2005

13. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Housing and Works
14. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Housing and Works
16. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health

17. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
18. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
19. Dr E. Constable to the Attorney General
20. Mr D.T. Redman to the Minister for State Development

Tuesday, 26 April 2005

21. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Justice
22. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for the Environment
23. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for Tourism
24. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for State Development
25. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Premier
26. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Housing and Works
27. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
28. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
29. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
30. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health
31. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources
32. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Premier

**Questions listed for this sitting: -**

33. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Energy
  - (1) In 1996 when the program to convert older residential areas to underground power commenced, was the funding for the pilot projects set at \$24 million?
  - (2) In the last six financial years have royalties paid to the State Government by Western Power increased from \$107,738,000 to \$213,025,000, and what were the figures for each of the financial years?
  - (3) For each year since the program commenced -
    - (a) how much money has been spent on underground power on an annual basis;
    - (b) what proportion of this money is from the Government directly;
    - (c) what proportion of this money has come from Western Power directly;
    - (d) what proportion of this money has come from Local Governments; and
    - (e) are there any other funding sources and if so, what are the sources and how much annually have they contributed?
  - (4) How much money, on an annual basis, has been allocated to each member's electorate since the program commenced?
  - (5) How much money, on an annual basis, has been spent supplying underground power to each suburb within the Alfred Cove electorate?
  - (6) Will the Government give a commitment to increase the amount of money spent on underground power?

- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) What is an average cost, in a older suburb, to supply underground power to a residential dwelling?
- (9) What criteria do the Government currently use in deciding where underground power will be allocated?
- (10) How many years will it take, using the trend of investment since the program commenced, to supply underground power to all residencies/homes -
  - (a) in the metropolitan area; and
  - (b) outside the metropolitan area?

34. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training

- (1) If, as stated during the election by the former Minister for Education, 'our TEE system is as good as any in Australia' why is the Government t planning on changing it from a system which has a clearly defined syllabus, a high stakes examination process and high teacher accountability, to the new proposed courses of study system often referred to as 'Outcomes based' which is characterized by a vague syllabus dependent on the background and skills of the teacher, decreasing emphasis on high stakes examinations and low teacher accountability?
- (2) Is it true that under the new proposed courses of study system (outcomes based education) subjects like woodwork, metalwork, cooking, sewing and automotive engineering will hold exactly the same status as physics, chemistry, literature, and calculus in calculating a TER?
- (3) In this academic year how many choices of study do students have under the current TEE, wholly school assessed and Vocational Education and Training?
- (4) Under the new proposed courses of study system how many choices will students have?
- (5) If the new system offers a substantial reduction in choices, why is this so?
- (6) Why is the Curriculum Council advertising the new system as an 'increase in choice' for students?
- (7) In relation to the Curriculum Council -
  - (a) how many members are there:
  - (b) of these how many have never held a school teaching position; and
  - (c) of these how many are currently practising teachers in schools?
- (8) In relation to the new proposed course of study system (outcomes based education) -
  - (a) has this type of system, as proposed by the WA Curriculum Council, been introduced in a successful manner elsewhere; and
  - (b) if yes, where and how?
- (9) How does the new proposed courses of study system (outcomes based education) include what most teachers and parents would agree as essential components of a good education system that being a clearly defined syllabus, a high stakes examination process and high teacher accountability?
- (10) Why is the education system moving from a system understood by parents which provides a grade, mark and average score, to a new system lacking these factors and seen by many as imposed mediocrity?

35. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources

Will the Minister provide the following information -

- (a) the estimated volume of water stored in the South West Yarragadee aquifer formation;
- (b) the annual recharge rate of the South West Yarragadee aquifer formation;
- (c) the annual volume of water discharged into the Blackwood River from aquifers in the South West;
- (d) the current quantity of water drawn from the South West Yarragadee on an annual basis;
- (e) the current quantity of water allocated from the South West Yarragadee and for what purpose these allocations have been made;
- (f) the current quantity of annual water consumption in the South West region;
- (g) a breakdown of the estimated future quantity of annual water consumption in the South West region;
- (h) a breakdown of the predicted future quantity of water to be drawn from the South West Yarragadee formation;
- (i) the impact on the ecology (including but not limited to the impact on wetlands, river systems and animal life) of exporting water from the South West Yarragadee aquifer formation;
- (j) the current, and estimated future cost of research into the South West Yarragadee aquifer formation; and
- (k) the estimated date that a decision will be made regarding the sourcing of water from the South West Yarragadee for metropolitan consumption?

36. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources

Will the Minister provide the following information -

- (a) a breakdown (by aquifer or groundwater formation) of the number of bores currently capable of drawing water from major aquifers and groundwater formations in the metropolitan and South West region;
- (b) a breakdown (by aquifer or groundwater formation) of the number of bores that currently draw water from major aquifers and groundwater formations in the metropolitan and South West region;
- (c) the reason why each bore that is capable of drawing water from major aquifers and groundwater formations in the metropolitan and South West region is not currently being used to do so;
- (d) the procedures that have been established to calibrate bores used for any investigations or research into the extraction of water from the South West Yarragadee;
- (e) details on the number of bores that have been sunk as part of the current investigation into the South West Yarragadee;
- (f) the rationale as to why only one bore is being used to assess impacts of water extraction on the Yarragadee aquifer;
- (g) in regards to the Yarragadee investigation, what consideration has been given to the impact that water extraction from aquifers in the metropolitan region has had on the viability of these aquifers and the environment;
- (h) the rationale for the short assessment period being used to investigate the impact of water extraction from the Yarragadee aquifer; and

- (i) the rationale as to why reliance is being placed on assessment of the impact of water extraction from the Yarragadee aquifer during a time of diminished rainfall?

37. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources

In refer the Minister to his water resources policy, and ask:

- (a) will the Government still provide \$29 million towards the converting of open surface irrigation to piped irrigation in the Harvey/Logue Irrigation District if efforts to secure \$28 million from the Federal Government fail;
- (b) where has the Government allocated the \$15 million that it has committed to spend to help reduce salinity levels in the Wellington Dam;
- (c) will the Government still provide \$15 million to help reduce salinity levels in the Wellington Dam if efforts to secure matching funding from the Federal Government fail;
- (d) will the Minister provide a breakdown of all projects that have received funding under the Farm Water Grants Scheme since 2001;
- (e) what has been the annual cost of the Waterwise Rebate Program since it was introduced;
- (f) what quantity of water has been saved through rebates on water efficient appliances, and how has this quantity been measured;
- (g) will the Minister provide a complete breakdown of all costs associated with the administration and management of the Waterwise Rebate Program;
- (h) what action is being taken to 'further expand the use of recycled water in industry, as well as in irrigation of parks and agricultural areas near Perth';
- (i) what projects have been funded through the \$3 million Premier's Water Foundation, and how much has been allocated to each project;
- (j) will the Minister provide a complete breakdown of all costs associated with the administration and management of the Premier's Water Foundation;
- (k) how much water is currently provided to industry via the Kwinana Water Reclamation Plant;
- (l) what action has the Government taken to assess the option of establishing additional desalination plants;
- (m) will the Minister guarantee that the metropolitan area will not face water restrictions and sprinkler bans in the next five years; and
- (n) have any water sources been secured to meet the anticipated 182 gigalitres of water that will be required from 2009 until 2050, and if so, will the Minister provide details on these sources?

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**PETER J. McHUGH**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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