

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No. 43

TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2013

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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: -

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

- 1258. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1259. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1260. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1261. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1262. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1263. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister representing the Minister for Education

Thursday, 26 September 2013

- 1264. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Racing and Gaming
- 1266. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Transport
- 1267. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Transport
- 1268. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier
- 1269. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier
- 1270. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1271. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1272. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1273. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister for Culture and the Arts
- 1274. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1275. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1276. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Education

Tuesday, 15 October 2013

- 1277. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister for Local Government
- 1278. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier

- 1279. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Housing
- 1280. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Regional Development
- 1281. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Regional Development
- 1282. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer
- 1283. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer
- 1284. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Local Government
- 1285. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Local Government
- 1286. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Local Government
- 1287. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment
- 1288. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Regional Development
- 1289. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Regional Development
- 1290. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Regional Development
- 1291. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Regional Development
- 1292. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Regional Development
- 1293. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier
- 1294. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier
- 1295. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 1296. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 1297. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 1298. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Environment

Wednesday, 16 October 2013

- 1299. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1300. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1301. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1302. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Racing and Gaming
- 1303. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier
- 1304. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister representing the Attorney General
- 1305. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Tourism
- 1306. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Environment

Tuesday, 22 October 2013

- 1307. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Environment
- 1308. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Emergency Services
- 1309. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Forestry
- 1310. Ms J.M. Freeman to the Minister for Police
- 1311. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Health
- 1312. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Health
- 1313. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Health
- 1314. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- 1315. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Transport
- 1316. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Planning

Wednesday, 23 October 2013

- 1318. Ms J.M. Freeman to the Minister for Housing
- 1319. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister representing the Attorney General
- 1320. Mr R.H. Cook to the Premier
- 1321. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1322. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1323. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1324. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1325. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1326. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1327. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1328. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1329. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1330. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister for Housing
- 1331. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister for Housing
- 1332. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health
- 1333. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Police
- 1334. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Finance
- 1335. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Tourism

**Questions listed for this sitting: -**

**1336. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) What was the initial Budget for Project Vista, the refurbishment of Western Power's offices and depots, including its head office at 363 Wellington Street, Perth?
- (2) Who was the member of the Western Power executive with accountability for delivery of the project?
- (3) What is the expected final cost of the refurbishment?
- (4) What specific refurbishments occurred in the Executive wing on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of 363 Wellington Street?
- (5) If the final cost of Project Vista varies from the original Budget, who authorised the additional expenditure and when did that occur?
- (6) When was the Minister informed about the original expenditure and any Budget variations?

**1337. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Given that a previous Minister for Energy (question on notice 7211, 21 February 2012) provided Parliament with a breakdown of expenditure on Deloitte consultants by Western Power, including purpose of service and business area, why is it that the current Minister has refused to provide the same information in response to question 1120 (10 September 2013) claiming that "public disclosure of this information would adversely affect the commercial interests of Western Power in its capacity to negotiate contracts and fee for service arrangements with consulting firms in the future"?

- (2) Is the Minister aware of the Public Administration Committee of the Legislative Council report of 20 January 2012 which expressed grave concern about “Western Power’s management culture, and about Western Power’s corporate attitude to Parliamentary accountability”?
- (3) How does the Minister reconcile the answer to question 1120 (10 September 2013) with appropriate standards of transparency and Parliamentary accountability?
- (4) What specific measures has the Minister put in place to increase Western Power’s transparency and public accountability?

**1338. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Does the Minister support the claim by Western Power that the expenditure of \$5,398,132 on consultants in 2012–2013 (Deloitte: \$1,484,525.06, Ernst & Young \$3,913,607.30) directly yielded operating cost reductions of \$25.5 million in 2012–2013?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a breakdown of these operating cost reductions in 2012–2013?

**1339. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Further to question 1227 (11 September 2013), of the 22 former Deloitte employees who are now employed by Western Power, how many of those employees were involved in the procurement of \$12 million in contracts awarded by Western Power outlined in Question 7211 of 2012 and Question 1120 of 2013?
- (2) What steps did the Board or Management take to ensure there were no conflicts of interest in the procurement decisions?

**1340. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Further to Question on Notice No. 7672 of 2012, related to the decision by Western Power to increase the base pay and superannuation entitlements of Western Power executives in lieu of performance bonuses, how many of those who received this benefit have departed Western Power since June 2011?
- (2) What is the total cost of payouts to those individuals (including base salary, bonus, other payments and superannuation)?
- (3) How does the Minister reconcile the answer to question 1226 (11 September 2013) with appropriate standards of transparency and Parliamentary accountability?

**1341. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

Further to question on notice 1224 (11 September 2013):

- (a) has the performance assessment of Western Power’s extended leadership team been completed;
- (b) if so, did the assessment result in remuneration reviews;
- (c) what was the total cost (annual basis) of any increases determined; and
- (d) if the assessment has not been completed, when is it due to be completed?

**1342. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) With reference to question 1223 (11 September 2013) in which it was disclosed that Western Power spent \$8,580 in 2011–2012 investigating employee misconduct resulting in a termination, what was the nature of the misconduct?
- (2) What part of Western Power’s code of conduct was breached?

**1343. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) How many Western Power heads, area managers, executives, team leaders or equivalent have been sponsored for positions within the enterprise through 457 Visa arrangements since 1 July 2009?
- (2) How many heads, area managers, executives or team leaders or equivalent within the enterprise are currently engaged via 457 Visa arrangements, and for each:
  - (a) on what date was the individual appointed;
  - (b) how many times was the position advertised prior to seeking the 457 Visa arrangement;
  - (c) what position does the individual hold; and
  - (d) what is the total annual salary and benefits package paid to the individual?
- (3) How does the Minister reconcile the answer to question 794 (26 June 2013) with appropriate standards of transparency and Parliamentary accountability?

**1344. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Further to question 1228 (11 September 2013), which revealed that 67 Western Power employees were in receipt of annual salaries, fees and other benefits in excess of \$200,000, how does the Minister reconcile that information with Western Power's Annual Report (Remuneration Paid to Executive Officers, page 43) which indicates that only 7 people were in receipt of remuneration greater than \$200,000?
- (2) Has the definition of executive officers changed in 2012–2013 or 2013–2014 and if so on whose instruction?
- (3) How does the Minister reconcile Western Power's Annual Report disclosures with appropriate standards of transparency and accountability?

**1345. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the commitments given by the Government and by the Western Power board in the formal response to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Administration report entitled *Unassisted failure*, which was tabled on 12 June 2012?
- (2) Specifically, is the Minister aware that the Government and the Western Power board agreed that a 'State of the Infrastructure' report should be included every year in the Western Power Annual Report?
- (3) Can the Minister explain why the State of the Infrastructure report was not tabled in the Annual Report or in any other form to date for the 2012–2013 financial year?
- (4) Does the Minister stand by each and every commitment given by the Government and Western Power in its response tabled on 12 June 2012?

**1346. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Has the Department of Health engaged the services of private investigators in the financial years 2009–2010, 2010–2011, 2011–2012, 2012–2013, and since 1 July 2013 to date?
- (2) What was the total cost of these services?
- (3) For what purpose were they engaged?
- (4) Was the Minister informed of these investigations?

**1347. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Regional Development:**

For the 2012–2013 financial year, and since 1 July 2013 to date, has the Department of Regional Development and Lands paid for the production of any promotional paraphernalia, apparel or items promoting or advertising the Department, or the Royalties for Regions programme, and if so:

- (a) what specific items have been produced;
- (b) what has been the cost of each item produced; and
- (c) where specifically have the promotional items been circulated or distributed?

**1348. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Will the Minister advise the names of the schools in bushfire prone areas which have been fitted with ember screens on air conditioners?
- (2) Can the Minister further advise which schools in bushfire prone and high risk areas are yet to be fitted with such screens?
- (3) What is the timetable for fitting the remaining schools?

**1349. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to recommendation 32 of the Keelty report which recommends that fire authorities and police formulate a traffic management plan and I ask:

- (a) has this been done, and if so when was this completed;
- (b) will the Minister table the same; and
- (c) if no to (a), why not?

**1350. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to recommendation 30 of the Keelty report into the Perth Hills fires in relation to the inspection of bridges and the funds allocated in last year's budget for this express purpose and I ask:

- (a) what bridges have been inspected since June 2012; and
- (b) what was the total cost incurred by these bridge inspections?

**1351. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the process whereby proposals for prescribed burns must now be submitted to the office of bushfire management and I ask:

- (a) how many proposals have been submitted since May 2012;
- (b) how many of such proposals have been rejected or modified by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management; and
- (c) can the Minister please list those proposals rejected or modified by location and date of proposed burning activity?

**1352. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Environment:**

Can the Minister advise whether the staff of Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Parks and Wildlife have participated in joint training exercises with Department of Fire and Emergency Services and local government personnel, in the 2012 calendar year and 2013 to date, and if so please list the location, date and number of personnel involved in each?

**1353. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

Can the Minister advise whether the staff of Department of Fire and Emergency Services and volunteers have participated in joint training exercises with the Department of Environment and Conservation/Department of Parks and Wildlife and local government personnel in the 2012 calendar year and 2013 to date, and if so please list the location, date and number of personnel involved in each?

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