

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUESTIONS

No. 142

Thursday, 24 March 2011

Questions appear according to the date on which notice was delivered.
When a question has been answered it is removed from the postponed list.

POSTPONED QUESTIONS

Notice Given ***Wednesday, 16 February 2011***

3383. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health

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3453. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health

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- 3544. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Planning
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- 3549. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development
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- 3556. Hon Ed Dermer to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health
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- 3558. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
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- 3560. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
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- 3563. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food
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- 3627. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum
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- 3631. Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development
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- 3634. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
- 3635. Hon Ken Travers to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
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- 3638. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health
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- 3640. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Commerce
- 3641. Hon Adele Farina to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development
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- 3648. Hon Adele Farina to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 3649. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
- 3650. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
- 3651. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
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- 3659. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
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- 3661. Hon Adele Farina to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
- 3662. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
- 3663. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food
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- 3674. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
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- 3682. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Community Services
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- 3685. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Water
- 3686. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Water
- 3687. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Water
- 3688. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
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- 3695. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Water
- 3696. Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development
- 3697. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health
- 3698. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Housing
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- 3700. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Housing
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- 3702. Hon Jon Ford to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development
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- 3704. Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
- 3705. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Electoral Affairs
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- 3708. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health
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3719. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
3720. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

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3724. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
3725. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Energy
3726. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
3727. Hon Ken Travers to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Lands
3728. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection
3729. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering
3730. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection
3731. Hon Ken Travers to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
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3733. Hon Ken Travers to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

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3734. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection
3735. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection
3736. Hon Sue Ellery to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Attorney General
3737. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Education
3738. Hon Alison Xamon to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Water

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3739. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Local Government
3740. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Housing
3741. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Police
3742. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
3743. Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development
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3750. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum
3751. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
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3753. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health
3754. Hon Kate Doust to the Minister for Energy

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3755. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Disability Services
3756. Hon Sue Ellery to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

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QUESTIONS ASKED TODAY

*Notice given**Thursday, 24 March 2011*

3757. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the occurrence of starlings in Western Australia and the importance of biosecurity to the Government's Natural Resource Management Program, and ask -

- (1) How many reported sightings of starlings were made to the Department since 1 July 2009?
- (2) What is the current estimated starling population in Western Australia?
- (3) What strategies does the Minister and the Department have to monitor and eradicate starlings in Western Australia?
- (4) What funding is specifically targeted to the monitoring and eradication of starlings?
- (5) Please give details of how these funds are used?
- (6) How many FTE in the Department for Agriculture and Food and/or its contractors are working in Western Australia on the monitoring and eradication of starlings?
- (7) How has staffing and resourcing of starling monitoring and eradication changed over the past five years?
- (8) Is biosecurity still one of the Government's key natural resources management priorities?
- (9) If yes to (8), please provide details?
- (10) If no to (8), why not?
- (11) When will the government fully implement the 'Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007'?
- (12) What are the barriers to the implementation of the Act?

3758. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the changes in the monitoring and eradication of the Asian Honey Bee (*Apis cerana*) in Western Australia in the past year and the role of the National Management Group, and ask -

- (1) What strategies does the Minister and the Department have to address the increased likelihood of an incursion of *Apis cerana* in Western Australia?
- (2) What position does the Minister, or his representative, take with regards to the funding of control and eradication programs for *Apis cerana* at a national level, or on the National Management Group?
- (3) What evidence was considered in the forming of that position?
- (4) Who represented Western Australia in the deliberations at a national level, or on the National Management Group?

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- (5) Which Western Australian community and industry representatives were consulted in the process?
- (6) How many of the consulted bodies supported the de-funding of the eradication program?
- (7) How many FTE of the Department for Agriculture and Food staff and its contractors are working in Western Australia on the prevention of an incursion, or the eradication of apiscerana?

3759. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

Further to Question On Notice No. 3015 of 2010, regarding prescribed burn Layman Ballan BS120, conducted by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in Wiltshire-Butler National Parks in October 2010, I ask -

- (1) Given that the burn prescription said that biodiversity management was the primary objective of the burn, why was the purpose of the Layman burn, given as strategic protection of the nearby Jalbarragup and Darradup rural housing estates, farming properties, with biodiversity management named as the second objective?
- (2) Given that one success criterion was burning between 60 percent and 80 percent of the riparian and forest areas of *Agonis flexuosa*, what percentage of the riparian and forest areas of *Agonis flexuosa* was actually burnt?
- (3) Given that another success criterion was that no more than 30 percent of the total forested area would be fully crown scorched and that an estimated 70 percent was fully crown scorched, what percentage of the total forested area is now known to have been fully crown scorched?
- (4) How can DEC claim that its prescribed burning protects riparian zone habitat, summer refuge habitat for fish and western ringtail possum habitat and food source from high intensity summer bushfires, when its prescribed burn BS120 was in fact a high intensity fire?
- (5) How can DEC claim that BS120 would 'protect, maintain and enhance' biodiversity, when it does not know the fire response of seven species of Priority Flora found in the area of the planned burn, namely *Acacia tayloriana* (P4), *Astroloma* sp. Nannup (P4), *Chordifex gracilior* (P3), *Hybanthus volubilis* (P2), *Leptinelladrummondii* (P2, or *Darwiniasp* Whicher Range (P1) or *Eucalyptus relictus* trees (P2) ?
- (6) How can DEC budget for its annual prescribed burning program, if it does not individually cost planned burns when it did so in the past (a 2006 prescribed burn in Leeuwin Natuarliste National Parks was estimated to cost \$22,400 but ended up costing \$755,288), or is the budget for DEC's annual prescribed burning program unlimited?
- (7) What is the cost to date of BS120 and its consequences, including follow-up monitoring and remediation, estimated in December 2010 at \$300,000?
- (8) Will the Minister please provide satellite and photographic imagery of the burn to show, inter alia, what percentage of the riparian and forest areas of *Agonis flexuosa* was burnt, the amount of full crown scorch and fire intensity in the riparian habitat along the Blackwood River and its tributaries?

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3760. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer

Referring to the then Minister's media release, 'Outcome of public sector superannuation review' of 15 April 2010, I ask -

- (1) What is the current total remuneration package of GESB's CEO and executives?
- (2) Did the CEO and/or the executive receive or will they receive any remuneration increases since 1 July 2009?
- (3) If yes to (2), please provide details.
- (4) If yes to (2), how do these increases compare with those of the Special Division of the Western Australian Public Sector for the same period?
- (5) How does the total value of these packages compare with remuneration of CEOs and executives of public sector superannuation funds in the other States?
- (6) Were any of the executives employed by GESB since 2005, working as public servants in the year prior to becoming GESB contract staff?
- (7) If yes to (6), please provide names and their classification as public servants.
- (8) What action has been taken 'to bring senior executive remuneration at GESB back within the jurisdiction of a Salaries and Allowances Tribunal'?
- (9) What is the timeline for implementation of (8)?
- (10) Could the Treasurer please provide an update on the progress of implementing the Whithear Report reforms?

3761. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

- (1) How many children were under the care of the Department of Child Protection (DCP) during the month of February 2011, by district?
- (2) How many of these were placed in non-Government group facilities, by district?
- (3) How many of these were in placements with DCP foster carers by category of relative and non relative carer, by district?
- (4) How many of these were in placements with non-Government organisation foster carers by district?

3762. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

- (1) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total funded full time equivalent (FTE) employee allocation by directorate and district?
- (2) As at 28 February 2011, -
 - (a) what were the vacancies in the full time equivalent (FTE) terms by directorate and district;

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- (b) how many of those vacancies were subject to advertising at 28 February 2011 by district; and
 - (c) of those not subject to advertising as at 28 February 2011, why not?
 - (3) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total service delivery full time equivalent (FTE) employee allocation by directorate and district?
 - (4) As at 28 February 2011, what were the total vacant service delivery positions by directorate and district?
 - (5) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total full time equivalent (FTE) case worker allocation by directorate and district?
 - (6) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total full time equivalent (FTE) vacant case worker positions?
 - (7) As at 28 February 2011, what was the full time equivalent (FTE) number of employees by directorate and district on permanent contract and on fixed term contract?
 - (8) As at 28 February 2011, how many Department of Child Protection (DCP) field officers have been co-located with Western Australian Police staff from the family protection unit, in regional and rural offices, as part of the strategy to combat family and domestic abuse?
 - (9) What are the co-location sites where the DCP officers referred to in (8) are situated?
3763. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection
- (1) As at 28 February 2011, what was the number of new Safety and Wellbeing Assessments for a Child recorded during that month by district?
 - (2) As at 28 February 2011, what was the number of new Safety and Wellbeing Assessments with a harm assessment recorded during the month by district?
 - (3) As at, 28 February 2011 what was the number of children in care for more than 20 days with no planning recorded by district?
 - (4) As at 28 February 2011, what was the number of Safety and Wellbeing Assessments open for more than 30 days but less than 90 days by district?
 - (5) As at 28 February 2011, what was the number of Safety and Wellbeing Assessment with a harm assessment open for more than 90 days by district?
 - (6) As at 28 February 2011, what were the number of open Safety and Wellbeing Assessments with a harm assessment by district?
 - (7) As at 28 February 2011, what was the number of 'monitored' or 'active holding' cases not allocated to workers caseload, by district?
3764. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection
- (1) As at 28 February 2011, what was total number of applications to be a foster carer approved by category of relative and non relative carer, and by district?

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- (2) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total number of registered foster carers by category of relative carer and non relative carer, and by district?
- (3) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total number of interim foster carers, by category of relative and non relative carer, and by district?
- (4) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total number of registered foster carers with children placed, by category of relative and non relative carers by district?
- (5) As at 28 February 2011, what was the total number of interim foster carers with children placed, by category of relative and non relative carers by district?

3765. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

- (1) During the month of February 2011, what was the total number of registered carers with four or more children placed with them by category of relative and non relative carer, by district?
- (2) During the month of February 2011, what was the total number of interim carers with four or more children placed with them by category of relative and non relative carer, by district?
- (3) During the month of February 2011, how many carers had an interim registration for more than 90 days by category of relative and non relative carer, by district?
- (4) During the month of February 2011, how many carers had a 'carer record screening' overdue or not recorded by category of relative and non relative carer, by district?
- (5) During the month of February 2011, how many carers had overdue 'carer reviews' by category of relative and non relative carer, by district?

3766. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

- (1) For the period 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011, what was the number of initial inquiries in relation to suspected child sexual abuse received by district and by category of mandated referrer?
- (2) For the period 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011 what was the number of Safety and Wellbeing Assessment with harm assessment, by district and by category of harm -
 - (a) neglect;
 - (b) sexual;
 - (c) physical abuse; and
 - (d) emotional abuse?
- (3) Has WA Police notified the Department of Child Protection that charges had been in respect of any of the Safety and Wellbeing Assessments recorded in the period 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011?
- (4) If yes to (3), how many individuals were charged and what was the nature of these charges?

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3767. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

- (1) For the period 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011, how many Responsible Parenting Agreements have the Department for Child Protection implemented?
- (2) How many of those Responsible Parenting Agreements listed above originated from a referral from another State Government Department, and how many were referred by each department?
- (3) How many parents approached to enter into a Responsible Parenting Agreement during this period, and refused the agreement?
- (4) How many Responsible Parenting Agreements included an agreement for the parents to -
 - (a) take part in counselling or parenting skills training;
 - (b) take reasonable steps to ensure their child attends school;
 - (c) take reasonable steps to ensure their child avoids contact with particular people or places; and
 - (d) undertake other measures?
- (5) How many juveniles, whose parents agreed to a Responsible Parenting Agreement have -
 - (a) improved their attendance at school; and
 - (b) re-offended since the Agreement was made?

3768. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

- (1) During the months of December 2010 and January/February of 2011, how many individuals did DCP refer to Centrelink for compulsory income management by district?
- (2) How many individuals with children have presented seeking financial assistance on two or more occasions to the Department for the period 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011 by district?
- (3) How many of these individuals have been assessed for the purpose of referral to the income management program by district?

3769. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

I refer to the take up rate of the hardship utility grant scheme (HUGS), and I ask -

- (1) How many applicants were referred, by Synergy, to financial counsellors for the months of November 2010 and November 2009, for the following suburbs -
 - (a) Leeming;
 - (b) Canning Vale;
 - (c) Morley;
 - (d) Wanneroo;

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- (e) Willagee;
- (f) Samson;
- (g) Spencer Park;
- (h) Balcatta;
- (i) Dalyellup;
- (j) High Wycombe;
- (k) Kingsley;
- (l) Clarkson;
- (m) Noranda;
- (n) Yokine;
- (o) Currambine;
- (p) Parkwood;
- (q) Huntingdale;
- (r) Ellenbrook;
- (s) Darch; and
- (t) Peppermint Grove?

3770. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health

I refer to the Government's intention to introduce a new Western Australian public health bill to replace the *Health Act 1911*, and ask -

- (1) Will the implementation of the ban of the use of raw poultry manure remain the responsibility of the Department of Health under the new Act?
- (2) Will the Act contain other provisions that address the issue of fly breeding?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) If yes to (2), would the Minister please provide detail on these provisions?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

3771. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health

I refer to Question on Notice 2411, and the Minister's advice that he was investigating an amendment to the *Health (Poultry Manure) Regulations 2001* in order to implement the ban on the use of raw poultry manure, and I ask -

- (1) Has an amendment been drafted?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?

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- (3) If yes to (1),
- (a) when do you anticipate it will come into force;
 - (b) please table a copy of the amendment; and
 - (c) if no to 3(b), why not?

3772. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

Referring to the public interest claim initiated by Mr Neil Winzer, who was recently transferred from the Department of Planning to the Department of Transport, my Question No. 2653 of 29 November 2005, the Hon Norman Moore's Question No. 2061 of 25 August 2005, and the Hon Paul Omodei's Questions No. 2926 and 2946 of 26 February 2007, and I ask -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Mr Winzer believes that some answers provided to these questions are incorrect?
- (2) Did the Minister receive correspondence from Mr Winzer of 7 January 2011 requesting that corrections to the parliamentary records be made?
- (3) Why did the Minister in his response of 15 March 2011 just note Mr Winzer's correspondence but not provide any answers to the questions raised and clarifications requested by Mr Winzer?
- (4) Will the Minister confirm that Mr Winzer cited in his correspondence to the Minister for Planning and the Minister what he believes are gross inconsistencies between records of the Legislative Council, the Corruption and Crime Commission report of 14 August 2008 and WorkCover transcript in relation to critical aspects of his public interest claim?
- (5) According to statute and procedure, could a public interest claim in 1999 be addressed in any way other than in writing?
- (6) Would a similar public interest claim when made under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* be likely to have a similar outcome?
- (7) Is the Minister aware that the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs was for 'immediate steps to resolve the issue of Mr Winzer's employment', and yet it remains the case that Mr Winzer, although a public servant, has not worked or been paid since 1999?
- (8) Will the Minister acknowledge that Mr Winzer's public interest claim and Mr Winzer's employment are inextricably linked and therefore the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (2007, Tenth Report, Petition No.18 – Neil Winzer Prayer for Relief), was for a resolution to the public interest claim, particularly in light of Committee's view at that time that 'the Committee believes that the 'public interest claim' will be adequately addressed by the Corruption and Crime Commission, if that agency receives Mr Winzer's full co-operation with its investigation' (paragraph 5.181) '?
- (9) Will the Minister acknowledge that, if there had been a thorough and objective investigation of Mr Winzer's public interest claim, grounds may have been established for his return to work and/or a re-start of his pay?

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- (10) If yes to (9), is the Minister prepared, in accordance with the 2007 recommendation of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, to take steps toward to a resolution of 'the issue of Mr Winzer's employment'?
- (11) If no to (10), why not?
- (12) If yes to (10), when?
- (13) What does the Minister intend to do to resolve Mr Winzer's ongoing grievance?

3773. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
I refer to a possible incursion of the Asian Honey Bee (apis cerana) in Western Australia, and ask -

- (1) What strategies does the Minister and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have to address the increased likelihood of an incursion of apis cerana in Western Australia?
- (2) Has the Minister, or the DEC, exchanged correspondence with Department for Agriculture and Food on this issue?
- (3) If yes to (2), what position did the Minister, or the Department, take in respect to possible changes to the funding of control and eradication programs for apis cerana at national level?
- (4) If no to (2), why not?
- (5) Was the Minister, the DEC and its representatives, involved in the deliberations at national level regarding the changes to the funding of monitoring and eradication of apis cerana?
- (6) What impact would the establishment of apis cerana and the bee's use of small cavities have on native animals, such as micro bats and sugar gliders?
- (7) What strategies does the Minister have to address possible concerns about the impact of apis cerana on native animals?
- (8) How many FTE of Department for the Environment ,or its contractors, are working in Western Australia on the prevention of an incursion of apis cerana?

3774. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Attorney General

I refer to the number of youth suicides in rural and regional Western Australia, and I ask -

- (1) How many young people, under the age of 25, died by suicide for the years 2006 to the present?
- (2) What town and what years did these suicides occur?
- (3) Of those who died by suicide, how many were of Aboriginal, and how many of non-Aboriginal backgrounds?

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3775. Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm to the Minister for Energy

I refer to the Renewable Energy Buyback Scheme, and I ask -

- (1) How many non-commercial alternative energy generating systems, with a capacity greater than 5 kW, are currently connected to the electricity grid?
- (2) Of the systems listed in (1),
 - (a) do they currently receive any payment or any form of power consumption offsetting allowance for the energy that is supplied in excess of domestic requirements that is fed back into the electricity grid;
 - (b) what is the combined potential capacity provided to the grid, and what was the amount of power generated and supplied into the electricity grid in the last 12 months and how is it measured;
 - (c) what was the domestic market value of the power generated in the last 12 months, and to which agency does this benefit accrue; and
 - (d) has there been any estimation of the overall supply or capital costs that have been incurred or avoided due to the contribution of these systems and if so, what are they?
- (3) Can you confirm that in order to have a non-commercial alternative energy generating system larger than 5 kW system connected to the electricity grid, both the control equipment and installation must be accredited and approved by Western Power and Synergy as meeting their required standards?
- (4) Have there been any instances where problems with system instability can be attributed to the operation of such systems and if so, how many?
- (5) What is the evidence that they are the cause of the problem?
- (6) What are the direct costs involved to affected utilities from systems instability having been positively identified as caused by alternative energy generating systems?

MALCOLM PEACOCK

Clerk of the Legislative Council