

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of Finance

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

1. I refer to the procurement of Rapid Antigen Tests by the Department of Finance and I ask:

(a) How many tests were procured;

Answer: The Department of Finance procured 25 million Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs).

(b) What was the total cost of procurement;

Answer: The Department of Finance has incurred costs of \$182.24 million, inclusive of GST.

(c) that identified in (b), what proportion is attributable to:

i) Transport costs to central store;

Answer: The Department of Finance does not have a central store or warehouse.

ii) Test costs;

Answer: \$152.18 million, inclusive of GST.

iii) Storage costs at central store;

Answer: \$62,000 (inc. GST) has been spent storing the tests with the supplier

iv) Costs of distribution of the tests; and

Answer: \$30.00 million (inc. GST)

v) Other costs;

Answer: None.

(d) many suppliers were engaged in the supply;

Answer: The Department of Finance procured RATs from three suppliers.

(e) Please identify each supplier and the number of tests procured from each supplier in (d);

Answer: The Department of Finance procured 5 million RATs from AM Diagnostics, 5 million RATs from Stewart and Heaton, and 15 million RATs from Cole Supplies.

(f) Of those identified in (a), how many tests were:

i) Saliva based tests; and

Answer: 20 million RATs were saliva tests.

ii) Nasal based tests;

Answer: 5 million RATs were nasal tests.

(g) In relation to each procurement identified in (e-f) please advise:

i) The date of each order being placed; and

Answer: All orders were placed on 21 January 2022.

ii) The date of each order being received;

Answer: The orders were received between February 2022 and April 2022.

Minister's initials



(h) Of the total number of tests received according to (a), how many have been distributed from the central store;

Answer: 23.9 million RATs have been distributed.

(i) Of those identified in (h) please provide a detailed breakdown of distribution; and

Answer: Distributions have occurred to the following groups:

- 11.2 million to households
- 10.9 million to schools and early childhood centres
- 1.7 million to State Agencies and Government Trading Enterprises
- 185,000 to Community Resource Centres with an additional allocation of 15,000 provided by the Department of Health

(j) What is the cost to date and projected costs of centrally storing rapid antigen tests?

Answer: Cost to date of centrally storing RATs is provided in response to c) iii). No additional projected costs are expected to be incurred by the Department of Finance.

2. I refer to question one asked prior to hearings in relation to payroll tax exemptions, and I ask:

(a) In reference to (a), how does the government estimate the benefit to employers and the impact to the budget of this exemption if the Department of Finance does not hold information relating to the number of employers who take up this exemption; and

Answer: The Government does not estimate the benefit as the exemption was introduced to support participation in activities which contribute to community safety. This is a longstanding exemption and its revenue impact is therefore already accounted for in the payroll tax base.

(b) In reference to (b), are all volunteer hours exempt, as stated in the answer, or only hours attending an emergency, as stated on the website?

Answer: The exemption applies to all wages paid by the employer to an eligible volunteer with the exception of wages that are paid or payable as annual leave, long service, recreation leave or sick leave. The exemption applies to the wages paid to a person when they are performing the functions of a volunteer member. The exemption is not restricted only to hours attending an emergency.

Minister's initials



Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC asked:

1) I refer to the State Fleet Policy and Procurement Initiatives on page 93 of Budget Paper No. 2 Vol. 2 and the state government's commitment to achieve a minimum 25 per cent electric vehicle target for eligible fleet vehicles by 2025-26 in the state electric vehicle strategy for Western Australia. I ask:

(a) Are there still 1,871 eligible vehicles of 21.5 per cent of the fleet which are eligible vehicles, or has this changed and if so, how many and what percentage of government fleet vehicles are eligible vehicles;

Answer: As of 1 July 2022, there are 1,902 vehicles in eligible categories (21.9 per cent of government fleet vehicles).

(b) How many and what percentage of eligible vehicles are electric vehicles to date;

Answer: There are 20 electric vehicles which is 1.1 per cent.

A year on year increase in uptake of electric vehicles is expected, with the first year being lowest, while vehicle supply, model availability, residual value and charging infrastructure are being established.

The McGowan Government is committed to the acceleration of the use of zero emission vehicles, as demonstrated through the allocation of \$22.6 million in the 2022-23 budget for new charging infrastructure to expand WA's electric vehicle charging network and \$36.5 million to provide up to 10,000 rebates \$3,500 to Western Australians who purchase a new electric or hydrogen vehicle up to a value of \$70,000.

The replacement of 10,000 petrol-fuelled vehicles with electric or hydrogen vehicles is expected to reduce carbon emissions by at least 7,000 tonnes each year.

(c) How many and what percentage of total fleet vehicles are electric vehicles to date;

Answer: There are 32 electric vehicles, which is 0.4 per cent.

(d) How many electric vehicles are ordered and expected for delivery in 2022-23, and the following three out-years respectively, and when is delivery expected;

Answer: There are currently 49 electric vehicles on order, and all electric vehicles are expected to be delivered in 2022-23. It is anticipated further orders will be placed in the out years.

(e) How many hybrid vehicles are in the government fleet?

Answer: There are 519 hybrid vehicles in the Government fleet.

Minister's initials



Handwritten signature of Tony Butler in blue ink, positioned above a horizontal line.