



QUESTIONS BOOKLET

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2021

Questions appear according to the date on which notice was delivered.

QUESTIONS AWAITING ANSWERS

Notice Given **Wednesday, 17 November 2021**

439. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Police

Notice Given **Tuesday, 30 November 2021**

440. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health

441. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management

442. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Energy

Notice Given **Wednesday, 1 December 2021**

443. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

444. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

445. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

Notice Given **Thursday, 2 December 2021**

446. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

Notice Given **Tuesday, 7 December 2021**

447. Hon Wilson Tucker to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Housing; Local Government

Notice Given **Wednesday, 8 December 2021**

448. Hon Neil Thomson to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

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Questions Awaiting Answers**Notice Given** **Tuesday, 14 December 2021**

- 449. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Emergency Services
- 450. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Agriculture and Food
- 451. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Small Business
- 452. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Heritage
- 453. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Energy
- 454. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Water
- 455. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment
- 456. Hon Nick Goiran to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Child Protection

Notice Given **Wednesday, 15 December 2021**

- 457. Hon Nick Goiran to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Police
- 458. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Police
- 459. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health
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Questions Awaiting Answers

- 468. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health
- 469. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health
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- 471. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health

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QUESTIONS ASKED TODAY

Notice Given **Thursday, 16 December 2021**

472. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment; Climate Action:

In May 2021, the International Energy Agency said that no new oil and gas fields can be developed if the world is to meet the goal of net zero emissions by 2050 and keep global warming to 1.5 degrees. In November 2021, following Western Australian government approvals, the \$16 billion plan by Woodside described as Australia's biggest new fossil fuel investment in nearly a decade was given the go ahead, I ask the Minister:

- (a) what is the expected total scope 1, scope 2, and scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions respectively of the entire Scarborough–Pluto project, including its associated and interlinked projects;
- (b) is the Scarborough–Pluto project expected to result in increases in Western Australia's domestic emissions:
 - (i) if yes to (b), by how much is Western Australia's domestic emissions expected to increase:
 - (A) by 2030; and
 - (B) over the lifetime of the project; and
- (c) is the Scarborough–Pluto project expected to result in increases in other emissions:
 - (i) if yes to (c), by how much are other emissions expected to increase:
 - (A) by 2030; and
 - (B) over the lifetime of the project?

473. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to the State Government's commitment to "make every day count" between 13 December and the reopening of State borders on 5 February 2022 and I ask, how many additional negative pressure rooms will the State Government provide to regional hospitals between now and 5 February 2022?
- (2) How many additional ICU beds will the State Government provide to regional hospitals between now and 5 February 2022.?
- (3) Will the State Government establish any additional permanent mass vaccination clinics in low vaccination uptake regions of the Goldfields, Kimberley and Pilbara between now and 5 February 2022?
- (4) Will the Minister please detail any other new regional health measures the State Government will implement to make every day count between now and 5 February 2022.?

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Notice Given **Thursday, 16 December 2021**

474. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to the State Government's mixed messaging around who will cover the cost of PCR testing in Western Australia after borders reopen on 5 February 2022 and I ask, will the State Government continue to pay for PCR testing for all Western Australian residents after 5 February 2022?
- (2) Is it the intention of the State Government for all interstate and international visitors to Western Australia to pay for their own PCR testing after 5 February 2022?
- (3) If a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in Western Australia and people are directed to be tested, can you confirm the State Government will underwrite this cost for all who require testing, regardless of whether they are a Western Australian resident or not?

475. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) I refer to Western Australia's border reopening on 5 February 2022 and concerns from the small business community that they have not been provided with adequate advice, as reported by WA Today on 14 December, and I ask, what advice or guidelines has the State Government issued to businesses regarding their obligations if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs at their business after 5 February 2022?
- (2) What advice or guidelines has the State Government issued to businesses regarding their obligations to confirm the vaccination status of patrons after 5 February 2022?
- (3) Will workers who test positive to COVID-19 after 5 February 2022 be able to continue to work, or will they be required to self-isolate, and for what length of time?
- (4) What support will the State Government provide businesses or individuals if they are unable to open or attend work due to a COVID-19 outbreak after 5 February 2022?

476. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to obligations upon medical practitioners to disclose criminal convictions, and I ask:

- (a) how many registered doctors in Western Australia have criminal convictions and of those recorded, how many were for sexual assault;
- (b) how many of the recorded criminal convictions occurred in Western Australia;
- (c) is there any obligation to report those criminal convictions to patients; and
- (d) if no to (c), why not?

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477. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to Western Australian Health staff, and I ask, how many registered nurses resigned, regardless of reason for resignation, from the public health system between:

- (a) 1 April 2020 to 3 November 2020; and
- (b) 3 November to 1 April 2021?

478. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the funding of nurse practitioners, specifically for the eastern wheatbelt, and the lack of funding to continue provision of basic healthcare in the eastern wheatbelt, and I ask:

- (a) how many communities will be impacted by the decision to remove funding for a Merredin-based nurse practitioner;
- (b) given WA Country Health Service committed to the development of a sustainable service model in March 2021, why is the organisation yet to take over the delivery of this critical service;
- (c) if a sustainable service model will not be available by 31 December 2021, what alternative funding model will be in place to ensure basic health services in the eastern wheatbelt; and
- (d) can the Minister provide assurance that when the current Nurse Practitioner's contract concludes at the end of December 2021, there will be no gap in service provision for the many regional communities which will be impacted?

479. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) I refer to an article in the Countryman of 2 December titled "Truck driver turmoil at COVID test 'chaos'" and I ask, which Western Australian border checkpoints can provide PCR testing?
- (2) Which Western Australian border checkpoints can provide rapid antigen testing?
- (3) Is the State Government considering additional measures or support to ensure truck drivers can enter Western Australia safely and without unnecessary delays and, if so, please provide detail?
- (4) How many commercial truck drivers have been denied entry into Western Australia since 1 October 2021.?

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Questions Asked Today**Notice Given** **Thursday, 16 December 2021****480. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the proposed Derby Tidal Energy Project, and ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rejected this proposal in 1999 on the basis that "the overall environmental consequences of the proposal were unacceptable and the proposal should not be implemented";
- (b) have any concerns put forward by the EPA in 1999 been allayed by the provision of new information by the proponent;
- (c) in 2003, Shadow Treasurer Colin Barnett stated on the ABC that the proposal failed environmentally and technically, has the situation as described by Mr Barnett changed:
 - (i) if yes to (c), what has changed;
- (d) in Ministerial Statement 941 dated July 2013 it states that "within 5 years from the date of this statement, must be demonstrated as substantial by providing the CEO with written evidence, on or before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this statement". Has the proponent received any extensions to the five-year limit:
 - (i) if yes to (d), when did it receive any extension(s) and how did the proponent demonstrate that the commencement of implementation was 'substantial';
- (e) I refer to Statement No. 941, 22 July, 2013, what implementation conditions and procedures were to have been completed by now;
- (f) I refer to Statement No. 941, 22 July, 2013, have any implementation conditions and procedures been completed:
 - (i) if yes to (f), which ones have been completed;
- (g) has any compliance reporting been provided for the Derby Tidal Power Station Project as described in Statement No. 941, 22 July, 2013:
 - (i) if yes to (g), will the Minister table all the compliance reporting; and
 - (ii) if no to (g)(i), why not;
- (h) how many Monitoring Plans, Reports, Program's, Operational strategies and Modellings are required according to Bulletin 941;
- (i) the EPA stated in Bulletin 1071 that as "No new information has been submitted by TEA to provide greater certainty on the issue of impacts on and management of mangroves – that the EPA's objective for mangroves cannot be met". Has any new information come to light that shows the EPA's objective for mangroves can be met:
 - (i) if yes to (i), will the Minister table the information; and
 - (ii) if no to (i)(i), why not;

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- (j) in Bulletin 1071, the EPA said In Bulletin 1071, the EPA said "it is appropriate for the EPA to reiterate its conclusion from Bulletin 942 that the EPA's objective for mangroves cannot be met." And there was uncertainty "...associated with the factors of mangroves and sedimentation." Has any new information come to light that shows the EPA's objective for mangroves and sedimentation can be met;
- (k) is the Minister aware of the report *A critical appraisal of the Consultative Environmental Review: Derby Tidal Power Project Doctors creek, Kimberley* by Dr Vic Semenuik;
- (l) is the Minister aware that the Doctors Creek area is one of "International significance as a macro tidal, mangrove-vegetated tidal flat";
- (m) Dr Semenuik identified a number of information gaps in the proposal, can the Minister provide evidence to show that these information gaps have been filled to the satisfaction of the EPA and herself:
- (i) if no to (m), why not;
- (n) according to the Referral document submitted under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act), reference EPBC Act 2010/5544, the proponent has submitted a map (page 4 of 40) that is different to the map it has provided in its "NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO THE DERBY TIDAL POWER PROJECT (ASSESSMENT #1073) UNDER SECTION 43 OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1986" (page 9), can the Minister confirm which is the correct map;
- (o) the proponent in its "NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO THE DERBY TIDAL POWER PROJECT (ASSESSMENT #1073) UNDER SECTION 43 OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1986" states that the proposal would supply electricity to Broome and Derby as well as the "possibility of serving other customers, for example mineral processing", specifically a zinc refinery at Derby. The referral under the EPBC Act states that the proposal would provide power to Derby, Broome and the Kimberley Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Precinct at James Price Point.
According to an article on ABC News (North-west Australian tidal power project in final stages of federal environmental approvals, 2 July 2021), the proponent stated that the project could supply –
"...mines in the area that are in the process of being established. There's the Curtin Airbase, the Kilty abattoir and there's a prawn farm potentially also in the works," he said.
"We have built into the costings all the power transmission infrastructure for supplying things like Sheffield Mine."
Is the Minister aware that there is no proposal for a zinc refinery at Derby, the Kimberley Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Precinct at James Price Point is no longer going ahead, the Kilty abattoir is in mothballs, no prawn farm has been approved, the 'Sheffield Mine' is using gas from the Pilbara, no other mines are likely to require electricity, Horizon Power is not seeking electricity from the project and that according to a story in the Broome Advertiser (*Proposed Derby tidal energy project could slash Kimberley power bills by more than 50 per cent*, 17

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June, 2021), "The Derby supply will be online from 2034, after existing power supply contracts expire...";

- (p) has the company recently disclosed to the Government or EPA where it would sell electricity to:
 - (i) if yes to (p), will the Minister table the information;
- (q) if the proponent does not have evidence, it has a market for the electricity, does this make the environmental approval redundant;
- (r) how many hectares of mangroves would be destroyed for the proposal; and
- (s) has the proponent got any evidence that mangroves would grow back post project implementation:
 - (i) if yes to (s), will the Minister table the evidence; and
 - (ii) if not to (s)(i), why not?

481. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the Government's announcement of 8 September 2021 on the ending of most native timber harvesting in Western Australia, and I ask what volume of jarrah logs have been extracted to provide access to mining, including for bauxite and mineral sands, in each of the last five years in relation to sawlogs?

PAUL GRANT

Acting Clerk of the Legislative Council