

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No. 159

THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

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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: -

Thursday, 29 March 2007

2112. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Treasurer

Tuesday, 12 June 2007

2415. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Thursday, 21 June 2007

2483. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Energy

Tuesday, 14 August 2007

2495. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Education and Training

2500. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works

2501. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works

2542. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Education and Training; South West

2548. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Premier; Minister for Federal-State Relations; Trade; Innovation; Science; Public Sector Management

2551. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government; Racing and Gaming; Multicultural Interests and Citizenship; Government Enterprises; Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure; Goldfields-Esperance; Youth

2555. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

2563. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Public Sector Management

2572. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
2580. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Housing and Works

Wednesday, 15 August 2007

2605. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Thursday, 16 August 2007

2607. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Industry and Enterprise  
2608. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Industry and Enterprise

Tuesday, 28 August 2007

2613. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
2615. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
2616. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Premier; Minister for Federal-State Relations; Trade; Innovation; Science; Public Sector Management  
2617. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for State Development  
2618. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; the Mid West and Wheatbelt; Great Southern  
2619. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government; Racing and Gaming; Multicultural Interests and Citizenship; Government Enterprises; Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure; Goldfields-Esperance; Youth  
2620. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Community Safety; Water Resources; Sport and Recreation  
2621. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Attorney General; Minister for Health; Electoral Affairs  
2622. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Employment Protection; Housing and Works; Indigenous Affairs; Heritage; Land Information  
2623. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
2624. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Disability Services; Tourism; Culture and the Arts; Consumer Protection  
2625. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Education and Training; South West  
2626. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise  
2627. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries; the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne  
2628. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Corrective Services; Small Business; Minister Assisting the Minister for Federal-State Relations  
2629. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel  
2630. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister representing the Minister for Child Protection; Communities; Women's Interests; Seniors and Volunteering  
2632. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
2633. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
2636. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Premier

- 2639. Mr G. Snook to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2640. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Industry and Enterprise
- 2641. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2642. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Education and Training
- 2643. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Heritage
- 2644. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Premier
- 2646. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Energy
- 2647. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Premier
- 2649. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Premier
- 2650. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Tourism
- 2651. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Premier

Wednesday, 29 August 2007

- 2652. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2654. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2655. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2656. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2657. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2658. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2659. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2660. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Energy
- 2662. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Tourism
- 2663. Mr R.F. Johnson to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2665. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2665. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2666. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Thursday, 30 August 2007

- 2667. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for the Environment

Thursday, 6 September 2007

- 2669. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2670. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2671. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2673. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Tuesday, 18 September 2007

- 2674. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming
- 2675. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2676. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2677. Mr G. Snook to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food
- 2678. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Premier
- 2679. Mr M.J. Cowper to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2680. Mr M.J. Cowper to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2681. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Community Safety
- 2682. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Community Safety
- 2683. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2684. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Health
- 2685. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2686. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2687. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government
- 2688. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 2689. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Small Business
- 2690. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2691. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2692. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2693. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2694. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2695. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2696. Mr R.F. Johnson to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2697. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Health

Wednesday, 19 September 2007

- 2698. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2699. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Health
- 2700. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2701. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
- 2702. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Consumer Protection
- 2703. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Energy
- 2704. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

**Questions listed for this sitting: -**

2705. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Health

- (1) As the purchase of incontinence pads can run into thousands of dollars per annum, are there any plans to increase the current \$470 per annum subsidy?
- (2) Are there any other alternative methods to obtain assistance to purchase incontinence pads in addition to the \$470 per annum subsidy when individuals who need them are suffering financial difficulties; and
  - (a) if so, could the Minister provide details?

2706. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) Will vehicle traffic volumes on the main route between Perth and Mandurah be monitored to establish if there has been a reduction in the usage of vehicles following the opening of the railway; and
  - (a) if so, how?
- (2) Will those volumes be monitored before and after the opening of the railway; and
  - (a) if so, for what period; and
  - (b) if not, why not?

2707. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Education and Training

- (1) The Government has publicly stated that since 2001 it has employed more than 1,400 extra teachers, and I ask the Minister how many FTE teachers have left the profession for each of the following years:
  - (a) 2001;
  - (b) 2002;
  - (c) 2003;
  - (d) 2004;
  - (e) 2005; and
  - (f) 2006?
- (2) How much did Western Australia's population increase by for each of the following years:
  - (a) 2001;
  - (b) 2002;
  - (c) 2003;
  - (d) 2004;
  - (e) 2005; and
  - (f) 2006?

2708. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Health

- (1) The Government has publicly stated that since 2001 it has employed more than 2,000 extra nurses, and I ask the Minister how many FTE nurses have left the profession for each of the following years:
  - (a) 2001;
  - (b) 2002;
  - (c) 2003;
  - (d) 2004;
  - (e) 2005; and
  - (f) 2006?
- (2) How much did Western Australia's population increase by for each of the following years:
  - (a) 2001;
  - (b) 2002;
  - (c) 2003;
  - (d) 2004;
  - (e) 2005; and
  - (f) 2006?

2709. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

- (1) The Government has publicly stated that since 2001 it has employed more than 370 additional police, and I ask the Minister how many FTE police have left the profession for each of the following years:
  - (a) 2001;
  - (b) 2002;
  - (c) 2003;
  - (d) 2004;
  - (e) 2005; and
  - (f) 2006?
- (2) How much did Western Australia's population increase by for each of the following years:
  - (a) 2001;
  - (b) 2002;
  - (c) 2003;
  - (d) 2004;
  - (e) 2005; and
  - (f) 2006?

2710. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for the Environment

In 2004 a report was published in the *Australian Journal of Soil Research* stating that an audit of 6,500 premises in Western Australia with dangerous goods revealed 57 per cent had underground storage tanks. Half were in Perth and 217 were leaking pollutants. These statistics were printed in the Government's *State of the Environment Report 2007*. With reference to these reports, I ask the Minister:

- (a) what action has the Government undertaken since the *Australian Journal of Soil Research* report was published in 2004 to remedy the problem regarding leaking underground storage tanks;
- (b) what standards or guidelines does the Government apply to underground storage tanks in order to reduce the possibility of leaks and groundwater contamination;
- (c) to date how many of these leaking underground storage tanks have been dealt with:
  - (i) in metropolitan Perth; and
  - (ii) outside metropolitan Perth;
- (d) when will the remaining leaking underground storage tanks be dealt with:
  - (i) in metropolitan Perth; and
  - (ii) outside metropolitan Perth; and
- (e) how often does the Government inspect underground storage tanks:
  - (i) in metropolitan Perth; and
  - (ii) outside metropolitan Perth?

2711. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for the Environment

The 2007 *State of the Environment Report* mentions that levels of measured atmosphere pollutants occasionally fail to meet national guidelines—mostly photochemical smog and haze in Perth and particulates in some regional areas—and I ask the Minister:

- (a) how is the air quality of Perth monitored;
- (b) to what extent do the following activities contribute to Perth's air pollution problems:
  - (i) smoky vehicles;
  - (ii) wood-fired stoves; and
  - (iii) prescribed burn offs; and
- (c) what is the Minister doing to reduce air quality problems caused by:
  - (i) smoky vehicles;
  - (ii) wood-fired stoves; and
  - (iii) prescribed burn offs?

2712. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for the Environment

- (1) What is the minimum level of staffing required in the Air Quality Branch of the Department of Environment and Conservation?
- (2) How many staff have resigned from the Air Quality Branch of the Department of Environment and Conservation in the last two years?

- (3) What is the current level of staffing in the Air Quality Branch of the Department of Environment and Conservation?
- (4) The Air Quality Branch was formerly in the Department of Environment (as a regulator) and the Forest Operations Branch was in CALM (as an operator), and I ask the Minister why is the Air Quality Branch and the Forest Operations Group now placed within the same department?
- (5) Is the Minister concerned about a serious conflict of interest existing between the Air Quality Branch (as a regulator) and the Forest Operations Branch (as an operator) now that they are both in the same department?

2713. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for the Environment

Since 2002 an Annual Report on the Implementation of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan has been released to the public, and I ask the Minister:

- (a) why hasn't the 2005–2006 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan been released to the public;
- (b) when did the Air Quality Coordinating Committee last meet;
- (c) if it has not met this year, why not and when is it likely to meet next;
- (d) does the Minister intend to compile a 2006–2007 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan; and
  - (i) if so, when will it be released to the public; and
- (e) does the Government intend to terminate the Perth Air Quality Management Plan following the current review?

2714. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many people underwent surgery at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital in the following years:
  - (a) 2007;
  - (b) 2006;
  - (c) 2005;
  - (d) 2004;
  - (e) 2003;
  - (f) 2002; and
  - (g) 2001?
- (2) Of those people, how many:
  - (a) died during or very soon after surgery;
  - (b) experienced post-surgical complications that did not require additional surgery; or
  - (c) experienced post-surgical complications that required further surgery,
 in each of the above mentioned years?
- (3) How many complaints did the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital receive in each of the above mentioned years ?
- (4) Of those complaints, how many were not investigated?



- (5) How many complaints resulted in an adverse finding against:
- (a) the hospital;
  - (b) a surgeon; or
  - (c) other staff member,

and would the Minister supply details of each?

2715. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming

- (1) What steps has the Government taken to encourage the implementation of an alcohol accord in conjunction with indigenous groups, community groups, liquor outlets and local police at each of the following areas:
- (a) Fitzroy Crossing;
  - (b) Halls Creek;
  - (c) Kununurra;
  - (d) Kalgoorlie; and
  - (e) other regional areas with alcohol problems?
- (2) If none, why hasn't the accord currently in place at Newman been used as a guide for alcohol service restrictions in other regions?
- (3) What statistics are available that show a decrease in alcohol-related offences such as domestic violence, drunkenness and assaults as a result of an alcohol accord being in place?

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**PETER J. McHUGH**

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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