

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No. 177

THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2007

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.

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, 16 August 2007

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

Wednesday, 29 August 2007

2665. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Thursday, 27 September 2007

2736. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Tourism

Tuesday, 16 October 2007

2746. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Education and Training

2753. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

2755. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

2756. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

- 2757. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2758. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2759. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2760. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2762. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2763. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2764. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2765. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2766. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2767. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2768. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2769. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2770. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2771. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2772. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2773. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2774. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2775. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2778. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Education and Training
- 2780. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Housing and Works
- 2781. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Corrective Services
- 2792. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Premier; Minister for Federal-State Relations; Trade; Innovation; Science; Public Sector Management
- 2793. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for State Development
- 2794. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; the Mid West and Wheatbelt; Great Southern
- 2798. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Employment Protection; Housing and Works; Indigenous Affairs; Heritage; Land Information
- 2799. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2800. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Disability Services; Tourism; Culture and the Arts; Consumer Protection
- 2801. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Education and Training; South West
- 2802. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise
- 2803. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries; the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne
- 2804. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Corrective Services; Small Business; Minister Assisting the Minister for Federal-State Relations

Wednesday, 17 October 2007

- 2842. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Education and Training

2849. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Education and Training

Thursday, 18 October 2007

2852. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for the Environment

Wednesday, 24 October 2007

2863. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Thursday, 25 October 2007

2867. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Housing and Works

Tuesday, 13 November 2007

2873. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Health

2875. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

2876. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Disability Services

2877. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Disability Services

2878. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise

2879. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Premier

2882. Mr C.J. Barnett to the Minister for Resources

2884. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

2885. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Attorney General

2886. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Education and Training

Wednesday, 14 November 2007

2891. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Disability Services

2892. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Health

2893. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

2894. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

2897. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Energy

2900. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Health

2902. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Premier

2904. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

2905. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for Resources

2906. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

2907. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

Thursday, 15 November 2007

2909. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Tourism

Tuesday, 20 November 2007

- 2910. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Premier; Minister for Federal-State Relations; Trade; Innovation; Science; Public Sector Management
- 2911. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for State Development
- 2912. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; the Mid West and Wheatbelt; Great Southern
- 2913. 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
- 2914. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Community Safety; Water Resources; Sport and Recreation
- 2915. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Attorney General; Minister for Health; Electoral Affairs
- 2916. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Employment Protection; Housing and Works; Indigenous Affairs; Heritage; Land Information
- 2917. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2918. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Disability Services; Tourism; Culture and the Arts; Consumer Protection
- 2919. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Education and Training; South West
- 2920. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise
- 2921. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries; the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne
- 2922. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Corrective Services; Small Business; Minister Assisting the Minister for Federal-State Relations
- 2923. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel
- 2924. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister representing the Minister for Child Protection; Communities; Women's Interests; Seniors and Volunteering
- 2925. Mr J.J.M. Bowler to the Minister for Energy
- 2926. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Public Sector Management

Wednesday, 21 November 2007

- 2927. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2928. Mr M.W. Trenorden to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Thursday, 22 November 2007

- 2930. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Energy
- 2931. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 2932. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Employment Protection
- 2933. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Community Safety
- 2934. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister representing the Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 2935. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Employment Protection

2936. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

Tuesday, 27 November 2007

2937. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for Corrective Services
2938. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Education and Training
2939. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Education and Training
2940. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Education and Training
2941. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
2942. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister representing the Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
2943. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
2944. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Employment Protection

Wednesday, 28 November 2007

2945. Mr G. Snook to the Minister for Education and Training
2946. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Public Sector Management
2947. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
2948. Dr K.D. Hames to the Minister for Health
2949. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Health
2950. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Health
2951. Mr C.J. Barnett to the Minister for Energy
2952. Mr M.W. Trenorden to the Minister for Energy
2953. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Health

Questions listed for this sitting: -

2954. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

A recent Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research report on policing in New South Wales highlighted the huge cost to the community from alcohol-related crime. The report established formulae that could be applied to other jurisdictions like Western Australia to establish the costs of alcohol-related crime costs here. The formulae comprises three components, which include reactive alcohol-related incidents, proactive resource allocation and monitoring of intoxicated persons. I ask, has the Minister given consideration to:

- (a) utilising this formula to establish the true cost of alcohol-related crime in Western Australia; or
- (b) establishing a State-specific activity survey on alcohol-related crime police costs?

2955. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Health

I refer to Question on Notice No. 2870, answered on 27 November 2007, and ask the Minister:

- (a) is there any estimate available for the proportion of available active beds in:

- (i) Royal Perth Hospital; and
- (ii) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital,

that are occupied by patients who specifically required tertiary care; and

- (b) if so, what are those figures and for which date do they apply; and
- (c) if not, is the estimate contained in the Reid report still a realistic figure for these two hospitals?

2956. Mr T.K. Waldron to the Minister for Housing and Works

I refer to the eligibility criteria for elderly country people wanting to move into Homeswest community housing, such as the Cottage Homes in Wagin, that states that people over 60 must not have cash assets in excess of \$80,000, and I ask:

- (a) how long has it been since the Department of Housing and Works has reviewed the eligibility criteria, given an average country home now sells for more than \$150,000;
- (b) does the Minister concede that in the current economic climate, the limit of \$80,000 needs to be reviewed, so that elderly country people can stay in their own communities;
- (c) is the Minister aware that half of the 40 applicants for the Wagin Cottage Homes are now ineligible for public rental housing as they have cash assets in excess of \$80,000 since selling their family homes; and
- (d) when will the Department of Housing and Works increase the criteria for the amount of cash assets, and how much will it be increased to?

2957. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to Question on Notice No. 2176, asked on 5 April 2007, I ask:

- (a) can the Minister state who authorised the spillage/discharge of hypersaline solution containing cyanide onto Optimum Resources tenement; and
 - (i) if no to (a), why not;
- (b) will the Department of Environment and Conservation prosecute the alleged offender for breaching the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for causing pollution, and under the *Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations Act 2004*; and
 - (i) if no to (b), why not?

2958. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1727, asked on 12 December 2006, I ask:

- (a) can the Minister state what are the estimated historic groundwater levels in metres below the surface on P26/3126 prior to the construction and operation of the Fimiston 1 tailings dam; and
 - (i) if no to (a), why not?

2959. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to the Kaltails tailings dam and Question on Notice No. 1726, answered on 27 February 2007, I ask:

- (a) can the Minister explain why the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is not able to confirm that a permeability rate of 10-9 metres per second

equates in a scientific sense to a water seepage rate of about three centimeters per year which the DEC regards as being impervious for their purpose; and

- (i) if no to (a), why not;
- (b) can the Minister explain more precisely what effectively restricts seepage means in terms of the distance that seepage will travel with a permeability of 10-9 metres per second; and
 - (i) if no to (b), why not; and
- (c) does the Minister support the DEC with its use of resources permitting the operator of the tailings dam to stress and kill vegetation causing pollution in the period from 1989 through to 1999 without taking strong enforcement action or prosecution action; and:
 - (i) if no to (c), then why not; and
 - (ii) if yes to (c), why?

2960. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

With reference to Question on Notice No. 2479, answered on 14 August 2007, and a newspaper article which appeared on page 5 in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* newspaper on Saturday, 21 July 2007 titled 'Country Cabbies Set to Share Lift Subsidy', I ask:

- (a) will the Minister introduce legislation to ensure that all taxi operators in the country areas, including Kalgoorlie, are entitled to a capital grant of up to \$15,000 for the installation of wheelchair hoists the same as Perth metropolitan taxi operators; and
 - (i) if no to (a), why not; and
- (b) will the Minister change Government policy or introduce legislation to ensure that all taxi operators in country regional areas, including Kalgoorlie, have the \$5–10 lifting fee subsidy so that regional country residents who require wheelchair lifts are not disadvantaged; and
 - (i) if no to (b), why not?

2961. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for Health

With reference to the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and a newspaper article titled 'Surgeon Situation Worsening' which appeared on page 5 in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* newspaper on Saturday, 17 November 2007, I ask:

- (a) can the Minister advise how long a timeframe in months will patients requiring orthopaedic surgery from the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, be required to seek medical referrals and also have surgery undertaken in Perth; and
 - (i) if no to (a), why not;
- (b) will the Minister ensure that another orthopaedic surgeon is appointed urgently to the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital to ensure that goldfields residents do not have to travel long distances to Perth for medical referrals and surgery; and
 - (i) if no to (b), why not;
- (c) to ensure the quality and availability of orthopaedic services for patients, will the Minister allocate the financial resources to ensure that a newly appointed orthopedic surgeon to the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital is available seven days a week and on 24-hour call if required; and
 - (i) if no to (c), why not;

- (d) for the last four years can the Minister advise how many patients were treated for orthopaedic surgery in each of the respective months from January to December at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital; and
- (i) if no to (d), why not?

2962. Mr M.W. Trenorden to the Minister for Education and Training

Given that Western Australia is one of the two hottest states in Australia; that Perth already has, on average, more sunlit hours than any other capital city in Australia; that rural, regional and remote Western Australia has mean summer temperatures up to 10 degrees Celsius above those in Perth; and that this State is already suffering from advanced adverse effects of global warming which are dangerous to human health, I ask the Minister:

- (a) why are young Wheatbelt children released from school during the ultimate period of heat on a summer's day, in many instances with an hours' travelling time on a school bus;
- (b) what additional educational programs and remedial processes are in place to protect young rural children in the Minister's care and custody from the potential side-effects of daylight saving in 2008;
- (c) what is the number and percentage of Wheatbelt schools with all classrooms air-conditioned;
- (d) what is the number and percentage of Wheatbelt schools with enough verandah space and other appropriate shade areas to accommodate and protect all students;
- (e) what is the number and percentage of Wheatbelt schools with properly facilitated 'quiet time' areas for pre-primary school children;
- (f) what is the number and percentage of Wheatbelt schools that provide to students:
 - (i) free chilled drinking water;
 - (ii) free sunscreen creams; or
 - (iii) any other form of sun protection facilitation;
- (g) what is the number and percentage of Wheatbelt school buses that are air-conditioned;
- (h) what monitoring processes are in place, or will be put in place, investigating any adverse effects of daylight saving on:
 - (i) students' classroom attitudes, performance and demeanour; and
 - (ii) playground attitudes, performance and demeanour; and
 - (iii) what is the number and percentage of Wheatbelt school students who will be attending Department of Education and Training initiated swimming lessons between the hours of 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Western Daylight Saving Time between 1 December 2007 to 1 March 2008?

2963. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

- (1) In which year did Western Australian police start using form P72 'Report of Road Traffic Crash'?
- (2) Has this form been updated since then and, if so, how and when?
- (3) Does the Western Australian police service have in its possession a copy of the equivalent form currently in use in the United Kingdom and, if so, will the Minister provide a copy to me?

2964. Mr G. Snook to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minister, in the event of a person's private vehicle being stolen and reported to the police as stolen, and subsequently located by the police, I request clarification on a number of matters in relation to this situation, and I ask:

- (a) when police locate a stolen vehicle is it standard procedure to contact the vehicle owner and enquire if the owner wishes to have the vehicle towed to a secure location;
- (b) if yes to (a), do owners have a right to not have their stolen vehicle towed by police contractors;
- (c) do stolen vehicle owners have a right to arrange their own towing or recovery of their vehicle;
- (d) does the police service have more than one towing contractor engaged to tow/recover stolen vehicles in the metropolitan area;
- (e) if no to (d), what is the name of the stolen vehicle towing/recovery contractor;
- (f) if yes to (d), what are the names of the stolen vehicle towing/recovery contractors;
- (g) is the address of the secure storage location of the contractor listed or advertised in the phone book;
- (h) is the contract for towing/recovery of stolen vehicles tendered out by the police service or any other Government department or agency;
- (i) if yes to (h), how much is that contract worth;
- (j) what is the daily fee charged to vehicle owners while their vehicle is in secure storage;
- (k) what is the length of the term of the contract to the successful tenderer;
- (l) when a stolen vehicle is located by police, is it standard practice for police to forensically examine/test every stolen vehicle;
- (m) if DNA and fingerprinting is done on stolen vehicles, and noting that the owner's DNA and fingerprints are possibly recovered from their stolen vehicle, what happens to the DNA/fingerprint samples of the owner;
- (n) how long are the DNA/fingerprint samples of the owner retained by the police service;
- (o) are the stolen vehicle owner's DNA/fingerprint samples destroyed after the stolen vehicle case is closed; and
- (p) if the answer to (o) is no, why not?

2965. Mr M.W. Trenorden to the Minister for Health

(1) In the 2006–2007 financial year the Government spent \$1.97 billion on the State's public hospitals, and I ask the Minister:

- (a) how much of this amount was spent on:
 - (i) total administration costs; and
 - (ii) total patient health care costs; and
- (b) how much of this amount was spent in public hospitals in the Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS) Wheatbelt region on:
 - (i) total administrative costs; and
 - (ii) total patient health care costs?

(2) What are the costs allocated to corporate WACHS from the Central Country Practice; and

- (a) how are these costs allocated to each of the Country Health divisions; and
- (b) is this done on a per-service allocation or some differential formula?

PETER J. McHUGH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
