

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
QUESTIONS
No. 160
Thursday, 24 October 2019

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 ***Thursday, 5 September 2019***

2458. Hon Michael Mischin to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General
(*SO108(2) response – 22 October 2019*)

Notice Given ***Tuesday, 17 September 2019***

2463. Hon Jacqui Boydell to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
(*SO108(2) response – 31 October 2019*)

Notice Given ***Thursday, 19 September 2019***

2496. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
2503. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Deputy Premier;
Minister for Health; Mental Health

Notice Given ***Tuesday, 24 September 2019***

2504. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Agriculture and Food
2505. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for
Emergency Services
2506. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for
Emergency Services
2507. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for
Water
2508. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Agriculture and Food
2509. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Regional Development
2510. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for
Fisheries
2511. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Premier; Minister for Public
Sector Management; Federal-State Relations
2512. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

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Postponed Questions

- 2513. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection
- 2514. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Police
- 2515. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Industrial Relations
- 2516. Hon Alison Xamon to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
- 2517. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Education and Training
- 2518. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development
- 2519. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
- 2520. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
- 2521. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental Health
- 2522. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Education and Training
- 2523. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs
- 2524. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Police; Road Safety
- 2525. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
- 2526. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services
- 2527. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
- 2528. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General

Notice Given **Wednesday, 25 September 2019**

- 2529. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Tourism
- 2530. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Commerce
- 2531. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation
- 2532. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Environment representing the Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Lands
- 2533. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- 2534. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Industrial Relations
- 2535. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
- 2536. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Transport; Planning

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Postponed Questions

2537. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth; Asian Engagement
2538. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services
2539. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science
2540. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection
2541. Hon Alison Xamon to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government

Notice Given **Thursday, 26 September 2019**

2542. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Emergency Services
2543. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2544. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2545. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2546. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2547. Hon Tim Clifford to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
2548. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2549. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy

Notice Given **Tuesday, 15 October 2019**

2550. Hon Diane Evers to the Minister for Environment
2551. Hon Diane Evers to the Minister for Environment
2552. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Police
2553. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
2554. Hon Tim Clifford to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
2555. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2556. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
2557. Hon Tim Clifford to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
2558. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2559. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
2560. Hon Tim Clifford to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
2561. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2562. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
2563. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Police
2564. Hon Tim Clifford to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
2565. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2566. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy

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Postponed Questions

2567. Hon Tim Clifford to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
2568. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Transport; Planning
2569. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
2570. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
2571. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Environment
2572. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Emergency Services
2573. Hon Colin Tincknell to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Housing
2574. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment
2575. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Emergency Services
2576. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Emergency Services
2577. Hon Diane Evers to the Minister for Environment
2578. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Tourism
2579. Hon Nick Goiran to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Housing
2580. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection
2581. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection
2582. Hon Nick Goiran to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
2583. Hon Alison Xamon to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General

Notice Given **Wednesday, 16 October 2019**

2584. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Education and Training
2585. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Planning
2586. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
2587. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment

Notice Given **Thursday, 17 October 2019**

2588. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
2589. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum
2590. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Electoral Affairs
2591. Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
2592. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment
2593. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy
2594. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment
2595. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment

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Postponed Questions

Notice Given *Tuesday, 22 October 2019*

2596. Hon Diane Evers to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

Notice Given *Wednesday, 23 October 2019*

2597. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment

2598. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy

2599. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Veterans Issues

2600. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy

2601. Hon Donna Faragher to the Minister for Education and Training

2602. Hon Donna Faragher to the Minister for Education and Training

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QUESTIONS ASKED TODAY

*Notice Given**Thursday, 24 October 2019***2603. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Environment representing the Treasurer:**

I refer to question on notice 2364 answered on 3 September 2019 on payroll tax receipts, and I ask again in hope of getting an answer, how many employers were liable for payroll tax and what was the payroll tax revenue collected in the 2018-19 financial year for taxable payrolls between:

- (a) \$850,000 and \$1,000,000;
- (b) \$1,000,001 and \$1,100,000;
- (c) \$1,100,001 and \$1,200,000;
- (d) \$1,200,001 and \$1,300,000;
- (e) \$1,300,001 and \$1,400,000;
- (f) 1,400,001 and \$1,500,000;
- (g) \$1,500,001 and \$1,600,000;
- (h) \$1,600,001 and \$1,700,000;
- (i) \$1,700,001 and \$1,800,000;
- (j) \$1,800,001 and \$1,900,000;
- (k) \$1,900,001 and \$2,000,000;
- (l) \$2,000,001 and \$2,500,000;
- (m) \$2,500,001 and \$3,000,000; and
- (n) \$3,000,001 and \$4,000,000?

2604. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to land-clearing recently carried out by the Water Corporation, on a water reserve adjacent to McGuigan Road, outside Broome, and I ask:

- (a) what is the nature of the arrangement between the Water Corporation (The Corporation) and Mamabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation (MAC), as it pertains to land-clearing:
 - (i) will the Minister please table this agreement; and
 - (ii) if not to (i), why not;
- (b) how much, in dollars, did The Corporation budget for the entire project:
 - (i) how much of this budget was allocated solely to land clearing;
- (c) has the Department of Water and Environment Regulation been made aware of the land-clearing:
 - (i) if no to (c), does The Corporation intend to do so; and
 - (ii) if yes to (c), when was the department informed;
- (d) what area of land has been cleared at the site to-date;
- (e) what is the expected total area that will be cleared over the lifetime of this project;

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- (f) had funding for the project been secured, in full, prior to land-clearing at the site:
 - (i) if no to (f), and in a case where total funding is not obtained, will The Corporation rehabilitate the land they previously cleared;
- (g) is the Minister aware that land-clearing commenced at the site without *in situ* flora and fauna surveys, despite being a known habitat of the federally-protected Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*):
 - (i) if no to (g), why not; and
 - (ii) if yes to (g), does the Minister consider litigation to be a likely outcome;
- (h) why did The Corporation write an application for land-clearing for MAC;
- (i) did MAC have a valid land-clearing permit before any work commenced at the site:
 - (i) if no to (i), why The Corporation preemptively clear land for this proposal;
- (j) what environmental safeguards has The Corporation put in place relating to this project;
- (k) is the area in question part of the 600 hectares of State Government land that was announced to be leased, at no cost, to MAC, to establish a native fruit tree orchard, by the previous Water Minister, Mia Davies;
- (l) the clearing permit application, drafted by Digby Short of the Water Corporation, says “Water Corporation supports the chemical-free indigenous farming methods that MAC will use, and consider there will be no risk to the water source.” and so, how will weeds and any regrowth of native vegetation be controlled at the site;
- (m) would the Minister give comment on MAC’s proposal to abandon “Savannah enrichment” techniques in favour of a conventional orchard, realised via mechanical clearing;
- (n) has The Corporation investigated the viability of “Savannah enrichment” at the site, or other sites of similar ecological profile:
 - (i) will the Minister please table any items relevant to (n);
- (o) does the Minister consider “Savannah enrichment” to be more efficient and viable than traditional orchards at these sites;
- (p) given the proposal by MAC has been labelled as a trial, what are the key performance indicators to measure the success of this trial:
 - (i) what is the length of this trial;
 - (ii) will The Corporation offer financial support for the duration of the trial; and
 - (iii) if yes to (ii), would the Minister provide an estimate of total cost, borne by The Corporation, over the trial’s duration; and
- (q) to the Minister’s knowledge, have there been any other instances of land-clearing on water reserves, by the Water Corporation, since 2000:
 - (i) if yes to (q), would the Minister please provide the relevant details?

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2605. Hon Peter Collier to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to Infrastructure Western Australia (WA), and I ask:

- (a) will the Premier table the agenda and minutes from all board meeting of Infrastructure WA; and
- (b) if no to (a), why not?

2606. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Industry Innovation section of the Climate Change in Western Australia issues paper, and I ask:

- (a) what measures has the State Government undertaken to increase investment in renewable energy projects in Western Australia:
 - (i) will the Minister please detail how effective these measures have been;
- (b) given the need to rapidly transition to a low-carbon economy, how does the State Government plan to increase renewable energy investment;
- (c) will the State Government implement a Renewable Energy Target to ensure business confidence in renewable energy investment; and
- (d) if no to (c), why not?

2607. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the Industry Innovation section of the Climate Change in Western Australia issues paper, and I ask:

- (a) what measures has the State Government undertaken to increase investment in renewable energy projects in Western Australia:
 - (i) will the Minister please detail how effective these measures have been;
- (b) given the need to rapidly transition to a low-carbon economy, how does the State Government plan to increase renewable energy investment;
- (c) will the State Government implement a Renewable Energy Target to ensure business confidence in renewable energy investment; and
- (d) if no to (c), why not?

2608. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Industry Innovation section of the Climate Change in Western Australia issues paper, specifically the statement that new resource sector proposals are likely to drive increases to Western Australia's emissions in the short term, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister please outline the time period considered:
 - (i) short-term; and
 - (ii) medium-term;
- (b) what is the projected increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the resource sector by the end date of the short-term period as defined by (i)(a); and
- (c) what is the projected increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the resource sector by the end date of the medium-term period as defined by (i)(b)?

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Notice Given Thursday, 24 October 2019

2609. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Industry Innovation section of the Climate Change in Western Australia issues paper, specifically the statement that Western Australia's fugitive emissions contribute 14 per cent to the State's total greenhouse gas emissions, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister confirm that the increase in fugitive emissions is due to an increase in liquified natural gas operations in the State;
- (b) what is the projected contribution fugitive emissions will make to the State's total greenhouse gas emissions by:
 - (i) 2025;
 - (ii) 2030;
 - (iii) 2040; and
 - (iv) 2050;
- (c) what measures has the State Government undertaken to ensure fugitive emissions are accurately recorded; and
- (d) what measures will the State Government undertake to ensure fugitive emissions are adequately mitigated and will the Minister please table the evidence supporting these measures?

2610. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Future Mobility section of the Climate Change in Western Australia issues paper, specifically fuel efficiency standards, and I ask:

- (a) given Australia is without mandatory fuel efficiency standards, what is the State Government doing to ensure Western Australia does not become a destination for high polluting vehicles; and
- (b) research indicates that increasing Electric Vehicle (EV) uptake in State Fleets drastically increases the amount of EV's available in the second-hand market and to the public, will the State Government implement an EV transition for the State Government Fleet:
 - (i) if no to (b), please detail why?

2611. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Regional Prosperity section of the Climate Change In Western Australia Issues Paper, specifically the discussion around carbon offsets, and I ask:

- (a) will the State Government implement a Western Australia, first policy for carbon offsets to ensure Western Australia benefits from the economic and environmental opportunities;
- (b) if yes to (a), when is such policy likely to be implemented; and
- (c) if no to (a), please explain why the State Government will not formally support this emerging industry in Western Australia?

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Notice Given *Thursday, 24 October 2019*

2612. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the Liveable towns and cities section of the Climate Change In Western Australia Issues Paper, specifically regarding urban forests, and I ask:

- (a) what is the current protection afforded to bushland with the Perth Metropolitan Area;
- (b) how does the State Government plan to strengthen this;
- (c) given loss of vegetation in urban areas is exacerbating the effects of climate change, how does the State Government plan to enforce increased tree canopy and vegetation across urban areas to mitigate this; and
- (d) will the State Government require all new developments to retain or plant vegetation to increase the urban tree canopy:
 - (i) if yes to (d), what is the requirement and how will it be enforced; and
 - (ii) if no to (d), why not?

2613. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services:

I refer to the Safe and Healthy Communities section of the Climate Change In Western Australia Issues Paper, specifically the discussion of disaster mitigation and preparedness, and I ask:

- (a) what is the annual funding that the State Government allocated for disaster mitigation and preparedness per financial year from 2009-2010 to 2019-2020;
- (b) given the frequency and ferocity of natural disasters will increase due to climate change, will the State Government increase the annual funding allocated to disaster mitigation and preparedness;
- (c) how much is the State Government prepared to increase this allocated funding by; and
- (d) will the Minister please table a ballpark figure for the next 5 years?

2614. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Liveable towns and cities section of the Climate Change In Western Australia Issues Paper, specifically the inefficiency of Western Australia's building stock, and I ask:

- (a) what is the energy efficiency rating of all community and state housing owned, part-owned, or managed by the State Government and will the Minister please table it;
- (b) what is the proposed energy efficiency rating for all community and state housing owned, part-owned, or managed by the State Government proposed in the next five financial years; and
- (c) what is the State Government doing to ensure better efficiency standards for all new buildings, including private and government owned?

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Notice Given *Thursday, 24 October 2019*

2615. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Liveable towns and cities section of the Climate Change In Western Australia Issues Paper, specifically regarding the Government of Western Australia's collaboration with other states and territories as well as the Australian Government to design and deliver a range of cost effective housing, appliance and equipment energy efficiency measures across the country, and I ask:

- (a) what collaboration has the State Government undertaken; and
- (b) how has the outcomes of this collaboration improved the cost effective housing, appliance and equipment energy efficiency measures across Western Australian housing stock?

2616. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the Liveable towns and cities section of the Climate Change In Western Australia Issues Paper, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister please table the data documenting the urban development across the Perth and Peel regions since 2009; and
- (b) will the Minister please table the data documenting the decline in established vegetation, particularly tree canopy, across the Perth and Peel regions since 2009?

2617. Hon Tim Clifford to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Protecting biodiversity section of the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper, and I ask:

- (a) how does the State Government propose to revegetate regional areas that have retained less than 5 per cent of their original vegetation due to land clearing from agriculture, along with urban and industrial development; and
- (b) what measures have already been undertaken and will the Minister please table the data supporting the effectiveness of such measures?

NIGEL PRATT

Clerk of the Legislative Council