

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUESTIONS

No. 146

Wednesday, 27 June 2007

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 **Wednesday, 6 December 2006**

4443. Hon Simon O'Brien to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)

Notice Given **Tuesday, 20 March 2007**

4476. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Multicultural Interests and Citizenship (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)
4519. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Corrective Services (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)
4520. Hon Peter Collier to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Small Business (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)
4521. Hon Peter Collier to the Leader of the House representing the Minister Assisting the Minister for Federal-State Relations (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)
4574. Hon Ray Halligan to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Corrective Services (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)
4575. Hon Ray Halligan to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Small Business (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)
4576. Hon Ray Halligan to the Leader of the House representing the Minister Assisting the Minister for Federal-State Relations (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)

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4665. Hon Ray Halligan to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation (*SO 138(d) response - May 2 2007*)

Notice Given ***Tuesday, 1 May 2007***

4756. Hon Norman Moore to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (*SO 138(d) response - June 6 2007*)

Notice Given ***Wednesday, 2 May 2007***

4764. Hon Ken Baston to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (*SO 138(d) response - June 7 2007*)

Notice Given ***Wednesday, 9 May 2007***

4784. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (*SO 138(d) response - June 26 2007*)

4828. Hon Helen Morton to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (*SO 138(d) response - June 26 2007*)

4833. Hon Helen Morton to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education and Training (*SO 138(d) response - June 26 2007*)

4835. Hon Helen Morton to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy (*SO 138(d) response - June 26 2007*)

Notice Given ***Tuesday, 29 May 2007***

4851. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

4852. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

4899. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Employment Protection

4900. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Housing and Works

4901. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

4902. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Heritage

4903. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Land Information

4922. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Employment Protection

4924. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Employment Protection

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Postponed Questions***Notice Given*** ***Wednesday, 30 May 2007***

4927. Hon Norman Moore to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy
4929. Hon Barbara Scott to the Minister for Child Protection

Notice Given ***Tuesday, 5 June 2007***

4934. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
4935. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs
4936. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Notice Given ***Wednesday, 6 June 2007***

4938. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Climate Change
4939. Hon Anthony Fels to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
4941. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development
4942. Hon Giz Watson to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

Notice Given ***Thursday, 7 June 2007***

4944. Hon Helen Morton to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Health
4945. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
4946. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Innovation
4947. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Science
4949. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
4950. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment
4951. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Government Enterprises

Notice Given ***Tuesday, 19 June 2007***

4952. Hon Norman Moore to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Resources
4953. Hon Simon O'Brien to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
4954. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education and Training
4955. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Corrective Services

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4956. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development

4957. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources

4958. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources

Notice Given ***Wednesday, 20 June 2007***

4959. Hon Helen Morton to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Health

4960. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Corrective Services

Notice Given ***Tuesday, 26 June 2007***

4961. Hon Norman Moore to the Minister for Goldfields-Esperance

4962. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development

4963. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

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4966. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

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*Notice given**Wednesday, 27 June 2007*

4967. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment
I refer to the Kaltails tailings dam, and I ask -

- (1) Is it correct that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) services unit wrote to KCGM on or about April 2006 with concerns about the Kaltails tailings dam?
- (2) If no to (1), what is correct?
- (3) Can the Minister explain why the EPA services unit was concerned to state 'there is no evidence presented that the re-commissioned Kaltails TSF will seep at the same rate as during previous use or that raising the level will not increase seepage'?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Can the Minister state why was it important for the EPA services unit to state 'there is no evidence that all seepage can be intercepted nor that current recovery of groundwater is successful in preventing water spreading downstream and that it will be successful in future'?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Can the Minister state why was it important for the EPA services unit to state 'there is no evidence presented on the potential impact of the Kaltails seepage on groundwater or to show an understanding of groundwater movement and current levels in the area, or potential impact to the Lakeside Conservation Reserve'?
- (8) Does the EPA services unit still regard all the points mentioned in questions in (3), (5), and (7) as still being important?
- (9) If yes to (8), why?
- (10) If no to (8), why not?

4968. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

I refer to a newspaper article which appeared in *The Kalgoorlie Miner*, on Friday 13 October 2006, titled 'Wheelchair taxi subsidy call', concerning country taxi drivers calling upon the State Government to extend a subsidy for wheelchair taxis to regional Western Australia, and I ask -

- (1) Can the Minister explain why the Government has adopted a policy of not providing multi purpose taxis in the country area of Kalgoorlie with a \$5 subsidy?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that country taxi operators in Kalgoorlie and other country areas pay more for fuel, tyres and parts outside of the Perth metropolitan area, and the subsidy currently provided only to Perth metropolitan taxi operators would greatly assist country taxis providing a service to people who require wheelchair pickups?

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- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) If yes to (3), how long has the Minister been aware of this?
- (6) Can the Minister explain the rationale as to why the Department of Planning and Infrastructure does not offer a capital grant of \$15 000 dollars for the installation of wheelchair hoists to Kalgoorlie taxi operators?
- (7) If no to (6), why not?
- (8) Will the Minister change the Department of Planning and Infrastructure policy to ensure that country multi purpose taxi operators are eligible for the \$15 000 dollar capital grant for the installation of a wheelchair hoist in the same way as metropolitan operators?
- (9) If no to (8), why not?
- (10) Can the Minister state how many wheelchair taxi operators are currently operating in the Kalgoorlie area?
- (11) If no to (10), why not?

4969. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Health

I refer to a newspaper article that appeared in *The Kalgoorlie Miner*, on Saturday May 12 2007, entitled 'Ravlich Under Fire', concerning the Government's inability to explain why no money was set aside this year for the promised \$40 million upgrade of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, and I ask -

- (1) Can the Minister explain why last year the budget estimates included \$6 million to be spent in 2007-08 on the hospital when it now has been revealed that no money will be spent until 2008-09?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Will the Minister ensure that the promised \$40 million upgrade to the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, is spent in the 2008-09 year?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

4970. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to a letter dated 14 February 2007 signed by Caron Goodbourn from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Esperance Port Authority (Esp PA) concerning an inspection of the Esperance Port, and I ask -

- (1) Can the Minister explain was the DEC concerned to state 'The DEC has received several recent odour complaints, and due to the close proximity to nearby residents, it is expected that that the Esp PA will ensure all possible points where odour may escape the nickel storage and handling system will be appropriately repaired or managed to ensure there are no unreasonable emissions outside the premises boundary'?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Can the Minister explain what is the importance under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, of the DEC referring to the 'premises boundary' for any emissions at any premises?

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(4) If no to (3), why not?

4971. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment
I refer to question on notice number 4720, asked on 4 April 2007 concerning the chairman and members of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), and I ask -

(1) Can the Minister explain why as a matter of 'general principle' the chairman and members of the EPA do not meet with proponents or their representatives over lunch to discuss proposals that are in the environmental assessment process?

(2) If no to (1), why not?

(3) Can the Minister explain the rationale and justification as to why the EPA's existing register of gifts was extended as of 16 April 2007 to cover disclosure of all alcohol, gifts, lunches, seats in corporate boxes, trips and tickets to events received from proponents and their representatives?

(4) If no to (3), why not?

(5) Will the register covering all of the above items mentioned in (3), be made publicly available so any member of the public can quickly see what disclosures have been made by the chairman and members of the EPA?

(6) If no to (5), why not?

(7) Can the Minister table a list of that have been declared on the existing register by the chairman and members of the EPA since January 2007 until June 26 2007 including all the items/disclosures, and who they were received from?

(8) If no to (7), why not?

(9) Can the Minister explain why the disclosure of all alcohol, gifts, lunches, seats in corporate boxes, trips and tickets received from proponents and their representatives was not seen as essential and important prior to 16 April 2007?

(10) If no to (9), why not?

4972. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment
I refer to Minister for The Environment media statement dated 23 May 2007, titled 'More wood heater rebates to help halt the haze this winter', and I ask -

(1) Can the Minister state the specific names and types of 'particles' in the air from wood heaters which have been linked with adverse health effects, leading to significant health costs?

(2) If no to (1), why not?

(3) Can the Minister explain how the recent research for the Department of Environment and Conservation estimating the cost of adverse health impacts from the use of wood heaters to be 18 million dollars per year, is being taken so seriously by the Government?

(4) If no to (3), why not?

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- (5) Can the Minister explain in detail how a figure of 18 million dollars per year for health costs is calculated and justified?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Can the Minister state the specific types of 'adverse health impacts' that the particles in the air from wood heaters cause to people which lead to 'significant health costs'?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?

4973. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment
 I refer to the gold mine operated by Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM) on behalf of the owners Newmont Mining and Barrick Gold and a saline water spill on or about 18 June 2006 at the Mount Percy operation, and I ask -

- (1) Is it correct that the saline water spill went outside of the bunding and travelled along a road?
- (2) If no to (2), why not?
- (3) Can the Minister state how far in metres did the saline water spill travel from the pipeline bunding and the amount of area in square metres that the saline water spill impacted upon?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Did this saline water spill flow onto an Aboriginal reserve in the Mt Percy area?
- (6) If yes to (5), how was this allowed to occur?
- (7) If no to (5), has a saline water spill occurred onto an Aboriginal reserve in the Mt Percy area over the last 14 months?
- (8) Did KCGM breach section 50 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* by discharging waste water which was likely to cause pollution?
- (9) If no to (8), why not?
- (10) Will KCGM be prosecuted for breaching any section of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in causing the saline water spill at the Mount Percy operation?
- (11) If no to (11), why not?
- (12) Can the Minister state what extra controls are now in place for the KCGM operations to prevent ongoing saline water spills outside of the pipeline bunding so that no further breaches of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* will occur?
- (13) If no to (12), why not?

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4974. Hon Giz Watson to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

I refer to evidence presented by Mr Julian Grill at last year's Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) hearings in relation to the Abydos Woodstock project, in which Cabinet approval was obtained for lifting of Department of Indigenous Affairs heritage protection over an extensive rock art site in the area, thus allowing Mr Grill's client, FMG Resources, to construct a railway line through the reserved area, and I ask -

- (1) Is the Minister aware of Mr Grill's assertion in evidence heard by the CCC that the Premier had already directed former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Sheila McHale to overrule the expected unfavourable decision of her own Aboriginal advisory committee (the APMC) on the Abydos Woodstock site, a month before the APMC had received heritage documentation for the site about which they were to deliberate?
- (2) Can the Premier confirm whether or not this assertion is correct?

4975. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Michelle Roberts is quoted in *The West Australian* newspaper on 28 February 2007, stating that there were 'no commercially viable alternative sites' available for Woodside's proposed Pluto LNG plant on the Burrup Peninsula, and I ask -

- (1) Can the Minister inform the Parliament whether DOIR or any other Government department has carried out a relative cost and heritage risk assessment for alternative sites for the Pluto LNG plant, which would have little or no impact on WA's unique Aboriginal cultural heritage?
- (2) If yes to (1), please table these documents?

4976. Hon Giz Watson to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

- (1) Is the Premier aware that former State Development Minister Clive Brown is working as a paid representative of the Midwest Iron Ore Alliance and a paid consultant to mining company Portman Ltd?
- (2) Does the Premier consider that someone who represents the clients of a disgraced lobbyist (Julian Grill) should also be on the committee that is considering the expulsion of that lobbyist from the Labor Party?
- (3) Has Mr Brown has any contact with any Ministers or any senior bureaucrats on behalf of either the Midwest Iron Ore Alliance or Portman Ltd?
- (4) Is the Premier aware that Mr Brown is not listed on the Government's lobbyist register?
- (5) What action will the Premier take to ensure that the lobbying activities of Mr Brown do not influence the outcome of the Government's Midwest review, including the gazetting of the Mt Manning nature reserve expansion?
- (6) Will the Premier recommend that the Corruption and Crime Commission inquire into the activities of Mr Brown in the Midwest?

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4977. Hon Anthony Fels to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management

- (1) Can the Minister please provide the following details of former Minister Marlborough's Chief of Staff, Mr Tony Monaghan -
- (a) his level and increment while Chief of Staff;
 - (b) the nature of Mr Monaghan's contract (term of Government or permanent public servant) while Chief of Staff;
 - (c) which ministerial office is Mr Monaghan currently assigned to (or if other office please detail);
 - (d) his level and increment in his new position;
 - (e) the nature of Mr Monaghan's contract (term of Government or permanent public servant) at the new position; and
 - (f) his job title at the new position?

4978. Hon Anthony Fels to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Health
In relation to the plight of quadriplegic people living in the Quad Centre accommodation at Shenton Park, and I ask -

- (1) What Department has the responsibility for the ownership, maintenance and day to day operation of the facility?
- (2) What Department has the responsibility for the care and wellbeing of over 85 of the quadriplegic residents at this facility?
- (3) What Department has the responsibility for the full time respiratory support care for the more critically dependant residents at this facility?

4979. Hon Anthony Fels to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Health
Under the Agenda Report No. 5, 'Shared Services Reform - A Work in Progress', one of the stated shared service centres is the Health Corporate Network (HCN), and I ask -

- (1) How many positions were taken from separate health services into HCN (e.g. Midwest, Goldfields-South East Health Service)?
- (2) Of these positions, how many positions in finance, procurement, human resources and payroll process were consolidated into HCN?
- (3) How many people were transferred in the above processes?
- (4) What will be the harvesting of annual savings of HCN process -
 - (a) July 2007-08;
 - (b) July 2008-09; and
 - (c) July 2009-10?

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Questions Asked Today*Notice given**Wednesday, 27 June 2007*

4980. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Government Enterprises

Regarding compensation claims from the Bridgetown bushfire on Boxing Day 2003 and referring to an article in *The West Australian*, of 7 March 2007, 'Long Fight for Compo after Big Bushfire', I ask -

- (1) How many compensation claims have been settled?
- (2) Is the Minister satisfied that they have been settled fairly?
- (3) How many compensation claims are still outstanding?
- (4) How many affected land owners are yet to lodge a claim?
- (5) Who is the insurer of Western Power?
- (6) What arrangement exists between this insurer and RiskCover with regard to liability and compensation for the fire?
- (7) What role did loss adjuster Ron Norris have at his appointment in 2004?
- (8) Has his role changed since then?
- (9) If yes to (8), why was his role changed?
- (10) Will the Minister please explain why Ron Norris has been instructed to no longer deal with at least one claimant?
- (11) Is the Minister satisfied with the implementation of the Government's promise, made by Conservation and Land Management's (CALM) Executive Director, on 4 February 2004 and after, that CALM had set up a 'one stop shop so that affected land owners could have their claims dealt with efficiently and quickly'?
- (12) In light of the time elapsed since the bushfire, the emotional stress suffered by fire victims and the 2004 Government promise, will the Minister ensure a review of all outstanding claims with a brief to avoid court proceedings?

MIA BETJEMAN

Clerk of the Legislative Council