



QUESTIONS BOOKLET

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024

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

QUESTIONS AWAITING ANSWERS

Notice Given *Tuesday, 27 February 2024*

1912. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Ports

Notice Given *Thursday, 29 February 2024*

1931. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing

Notice Given *Tuesday, 19 March 2024*

1966. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment

1967. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General

1968. Hon Nick Goiran to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health

1969. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy

1970. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Planning

Notice Given *Wednesday, 20 March 2024*

1971. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General

1972. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade

1973. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General

1974. Hon Peter Collier to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health

1975. Hon Steve Martin to the Leader of the House representing the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport

Notice Given *Thursday, 21 March 2024*

1976. Hon Steve Martin to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

1977. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Transport

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Questions Awaiting Answers

- 1978. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Forestry
- 1979. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food
- 1980. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing
- 1981. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade
- 1982. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing
- 1983. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Transport
- 1984. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy
- 1985. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health
- 1986. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health

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Notice Given **Tuesday, 16 April 2024**

1987. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the Head Contractor Relief Scheme announced in May 2022, and I ask:

- (a) how many applications have been received under the scheme;
- (b) how many applications have been successful;
- (c) what is the total amount of relief paid out under the scheme; and
- (d) will the Minister please table a list of the projects assisted by the scheme?

1988. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the King Rocks Wind Farm, and I ask:

- (a) has construction begun:
 - (i) if yes to (a), when did construction begin; and
 - (ii) if no to (a), why not;
- (b) has there been any changes to the timeline for completion of this project;
- (c) when is construction expected to be finished; and
- (d) when is the King Rocks Wind Farm expected to commence operation on the South West Interconnected System?

1989. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the State Government's \$5.8 billion WA Recovery Plan, of which \$15 million was set aside for emergency services initiatives, and in relation to the \$2 million two-year funding initiative announced in December 2020 to build 117 new water tanks to support Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, I ask:

- (a) how many of the 117 water tanks have been constructed;
- (b) if not all, which ones are yet to be constructed; and
- (c) if not all, what is the reason for the delay?

1990. Hon Neil Thomson to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Treasurer:

I refer to hypothecated accounts within the General Government Sector (not including Government utilities) that are neither funded by the Consolidated Account, or are classified as a Special Purpose Account, and I ask:

- (a) will the Treasurer please table a full list of those accounts and their account balance as at mid-year review?

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1991. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Police:

I refer the Minister to the response to question without notice 183, on Thursday 14 March 2024, and I ask:

- (a) what is the status and role of each of the additional 19 staff; and
- (b) what is the breakdown of the \$2.9 million spent so far to 'support WA police's 950 additional officers'?

1992. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the energy credits received by customers of Synergy with solar panels who sell energy back into the grid, and I ask:

- (a) if the customer's account is in credit, what options are available to them to access their \$400 cost of living energy rebate;
- (b) if the customer's account is likely to remain in credit, how can they access their rebate;
- (c) can the credits in one electricity account be used to pay a different account; and
- (d) if no to (c), why not?

1993. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the energy credits received by customers of Synergy with solar panels who sell energy back into the grid, and I ask:

- (a) if the customer's account is in credit, what options are available to them to access their \$400 cost of living energy rebate;
- (b) if the customer's account is likely to remain in credit, how can they access their rebate;
- (c) can the credits in one electricity account be used to pay a different account; and
- (d) if no to (c), why not?

1994. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the contract to provide septic and liquid management in Government assets in the Great Southern, Upper Great Southern and South West, that expired in June 2022, but was extended until October 2023, and to question on notice 1738, and I ask:

- (a) is the tender listed anywhere on Tenders WA;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) was having Aboriginal directors of the tendering company a requirement for successful tender;
- (d) if yes to (c), why and under what policy;

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- (e) would a company having Aboriginal directors have had a cost advantage in the tender process, and if so, what was that advantage;
- (f) can all three regions be awarded to a single contractor; and
- (g) if yes to (f), has this always been the case?

1995. Hon Peter Collier to the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Since 1 January 2021, has Eastside Concrete, Eastside Haulage or Abandoned Art received any Western Australian Government contracts through Tenders WA or any other means?
- (2) If yes to (1), what was the nature of the contract?
- (3) If yes to (1), when was it awarded?
- (4) If yes to (1), what was the total value of the contract?

1996. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to solar panels on Government schools in the South West and Great Southern, and I ask:

- (a) are school solar panels cleaned;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) what contracts exist for the cleaning of school solar panels, and how are they referenced;
- (d) are any contracts for the cleaning of solar panels conducted through Tenders WA;
- (e) how are school solar panels assessed for dirt and debris:
 - (i) who does this assessment;
- (f) is the output of school solar panels monitored and recorded;
- (g) if yes to (f), has there been any decline over time; and
- (h) please quantify any such decline?

1997. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the maintenance of solar panels on Government buildings, and I ask:

- (a) are the solar panels on Government buildings cleaned;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) if yes to (a), by whom;
- (d) what contracts exist for the cleaning of solar panels on Government buildings;
- (e) are such contracts managed through a Tenders WA process;
- (f) if yes to (e), please identify which specific tenders and contracts are involved;
- (g) is the performance of solar panels on Government buildings monitored and recorded;
- (h) if yes to (g), by whom; and

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- (i) if yes to (g), is the output of the panels declining as time goes by?

1998. Hon Nick Goiran to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General:

How many individual children, who attended the Gender Diversity Service (Children and Adolescent Health Service), were provided an independent children's lawyer by Legal Aid WA in situations where one or more of the child's parents or guardians did not consent to them undergoing gender affirmation treatment, for each of the following calendar years:

- (a) 2018;
- (b) 2019;
- (c) 2020;
- (d) 2021;
- (e) 2022; and
- (f) 2023?

1999. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the *Independent Review of Western Australian Environmental Approvals Processes and Procedures* (Independent Review), and I ask:

- (a) in regard to recommendation 36 of the Independent Review, what justification is provided for the possible removal of the appeal rights under part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA);
- (b) is the Minister aware that the current appeals process is very effective in identifying and correcting errors in EPA reports and recommendations;
- (c) is the Minister concerned that recommendations 6, 12 and 14, if implemented, could compromise the independence of the EPA and lead to the public perception that EPA recommendations are based on political considerations rather than on science; and
- (d) why did the Government fail to seek public input on the Independent Review before announcing that it supported all 39 recommendations?

2000. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of recommendation M81 of the *System Six Report (1983)*, which recommended the establishment of a regional park covering the Eastern Chain of the Wanneroo Wetlands?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the State Government committed to establishing the Gngangara Regional Park in November 1996, and released a draft concept plan for this park in May 1999?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Gngangara Mound is a vital water resource for the Metropolitan Area, and is also a major habitat for the priority-listed Carnaby's black cockatoo?

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- (4) Why has the Government not honoured this commitment to establish the Gngangara Regional Park?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to establish a regional park to protect the groundwater and biodiversity of the Gngangara Mound?

2001. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) recommended in the *System Six Report (1983)* that a regional park be established to protect the foreshores of the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary (recommendations C50 and C51)?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the State Government accepted these recommendations in principle in May 1984?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that planning commenced for the Peel Regional Park in 1993?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Is the Minister aware that the Gallop Government committed to establishing the Peel Regional Park?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?
- (9) Why has the Peel Regional Park not been established more than 40 years after it was proposed by the EPA and endorsed by the Government?
- (10) Can the Minister provide a timeline for the establishment of the Peel Regional Park?

2002. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the draft *State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water (SPP 2.9)*, that was released for public comment in August 2021, and I ask:

- (a) has the Western Australian Planning Commission completed its review of the public comments on SPP 2.9;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) has the Minister received the final version of SPP 2.9;
- (d) if no to (c), why not;
- (e) will the Minister release the final version of SPP 2.9 to the public;
- (f) if yes to (e), when; and
- (g) if no to (e), why not?

2003. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the draft *State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water (SPP 2.9)*, that was released for public comment in August 2021 and ask:

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- (a) has the Western Australian Planning Commission completed its review of the public comments on SPP 2.9;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) has the Minister received the final version of SPP 2.9;
- (d) if no to (c), why not;
- (e) will the Minister release the final version of SPP 2.9 to the public;
- (f) if yes to (e), when; and
- (g) if no to (e), why not?

2004. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the *Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia* which was published by the State Government in 1997?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of initiative 1.9 of this policy which states, "the Government will develop guidelines based on ecological grounds for provision of buffers between proposed developments and wetlands"?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Western Australian Planning Commission released for public comment, in December 2005, a document entitled, *Guideline for the Determination of Wetland Buffer Requirements*?
- (4) Given the Government's recently expressed desire to expedite urban development and streamline environmental approvals, why has this guideline remained unfinished and unpublished for more than 18 years?
- (5) What plans does the Minister have to finalise this important planning document?
- (6) If none, in reference to (5), why not?
- (7) When will the final guidelines for wetland buffers be published and made publicly available?

2005. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to Keystart, and I ask:

- (a) for each of the following years, how many Keystart loans have been applied for, per each loan type:
 - (i) 2019-20;
 - (ii) 2020-21;
 - (iii) 2021-22;
 - (iv) 2022-23; and
 - (v) 2023-24 (to date);

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- (b) for each of the years in (a), how many Keystart loans were approved, per each loan type;
- (c) for each of the years in (a), how many requests for hardship were received, per loan type;
- (d) for each of the years in (a), how many customers were 30 days or more in arrears, per each loan type;
- (e) for each of the years in (a), how many customers were 90 days or more in arrears, per each loan type;
- (f) for each of the years in (a), how many repossessions occurred, per each loan type;
- (g) for each of the years in (a), what was the average monthly repayment as of 30 June, per each loan type;
- (h) for each of the years in (a), how many loans were active, per each loan type;
- (i) for each of the years in (a), what was the total value of loans, per each loan type;
- (j) for each of the years in (a), how many loans transitioned to other lenders, per each loan type; and
- (k) for each of the years in (a), what percentage of total Keystart loans transitioned to other lenders that year?

2006. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the application to extract limestone and sand at Lot 1002 Preston Beach Road North, Preston Beach which has come under Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) assessment No. 2095, and I ask:

- (a) can you confirm that this proposal was first referred to the EPA in 2016;
- (b) can you confirm that the decision to assess this proposal as a Public Environmental Review (PER) was released on the 3 October 2016;
- (c) has the proponent worked with the EPA since 2016 to address issues examined in the PER;
- (d) why has it taken seven years to get to the point of the EPA continuing to ask for new or additional information;
- (e) is the Minister aware of the shortage of lime in Western Australia; and
- (f) if yes to (e), why has this project not been prioritised by the Government and the EPA?

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2007. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to disruptive behaviour in public housing, and I ask:

- (a) for the year 2022-23:
 - (i) how many voluntary vacates occurred following the issuing of a termination notice as a result of disruptive behaviour;
 - (ii) how many voluntary vacates occurred following the issuing of a court order as a result of disruptive behaviour; and
 - (iii) how many bailiff evictions occurred as a result of disruptive behaviour;
- (b) for each of the following years, how many strikes were issued, per each category of severity (dangerous, serious, or disruptive):
 - (i) 2017-18;
 - (ii) 2018-19;
 - (iii) 2019-20;
 - (iv) 2020-21;
 - (v) 2021-22;
 - (vi) 2022-23; and
 - (vii) 2023-24 (to date);
- (c) for each of the years listed in (b), how many strikes were issued for:
 - (i) dangerous behaviour;
 - (ii) serious behaviour; and
 - (iii) minor behaviour;
- (d) for each of the years listed in (b), how many public housing tenants had one or more strikes for dangerous behaviour;
- (e) for each of the years listed in (b), how many public housing tenants had two or more strikes for serious behaviour within a 12-month period;
- (f) for each of the years listed in (b), how many public housing tenants had two strikes for minor behaviour within a 12-month period;
- (g) for each of the years listed in (b), how many public housing tenants had three or more strikes for minor behaviour within a 12-month period;
- (h) I refer to the *Disruptive Behaviour Management* policy, page 3, which notes that "the number of strikes to be issued before proceeding with legal action will depend upon the severity of the incident". How many strikes can be accrued at each level of severity before legal action is triggered; and
- (i) will the Minister please provide any relevant documents which outline the number of strikes, per incident severity, referred to in (h)?

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Notice Given **Tuesday, 16 April 2024**

2008. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Water:

I refer to critically endangered sawfish at Liveringa pastoral lease, owned by Gina Rinehart, and I ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware that the sawfish are critically endangered internationally;
- (b) is the Minister aware that the Fitzroy River is one of the last major strongholds of the species;
- (c) is the Minister aware that the Freshwater Sawfish is listed as a threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
- (d) is the Minister aware of recent mass sawfish deaths at Liveringa pastoral lease;
- (e) if yes to (d), when did the Minister become aware of this;
- (f) if yes to (d), how many sawfish died;
- (g) if yes to (d), were any sawfish saved;
- (h) in reference to (d), at which coordinates did the sawfish die;
- (i) in reference to (h), will the Minister table a map of the location in which the sawfish died;
- (j) was the site, in (h), downstream of any dams, weirs or any type of obstruction that impeded water flow;
- (k) if yes to (j), what was the obstruction;
- (l) has any water been extracted from the same freshwater system as the one the sawfish died in;
- (m) if yes to (l), how much water has been extracted;
- (n) if yes to (l), why was it extracted;
- (o) if yes to (l), by whom was it extracted;
- (p) on what date were the sawfish found;
- (q) when, and by whom, was the incident reported to the Department and the Minister;
- (r) will the Minister table the briefing paper from the Department on any recent fishkills;
- (s) will the Minister table any reports, and/or other forms of written communication, on the deaths of sawfish;
- (t) if no to (s), why not;
- (u) has the Department and the Minister received photos of the mass sawfish deaths;
- (v) if yes to (u), will the Minister table the photos;
- (w) if no to (u), why not;
- (x) has any recent deaths of sawfish been reported to the Commonwealth Government;

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- (y) if no to (x), why not;
- (z) has the Ministerial Council on the Fitzroy River been briefed on the mass sawfish deaths;
- (aa) if no to (z), why not;
- (bb) if yes to (z), will the Minister table the briefing papers; and
- (cc) if no to (bb), why not?

2009. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General:

I refer to prosecutions of offences against section 336 of *The Criminal Code*, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister table the following information for the period since section 336 first came into effect (or as close to that date as is reasonably practicable) to now, broken down by year;
- (b) the number of prosecutions commenced; and
- (c) of those prosecutions in (b), the number that were successful?

2010. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness:

Ngarluma-Yindjibarndi Foundation has been overseeing the revival of Cossack, a heritage town in Western Australia's north west. Recent media reports say it could become a "ghost town" again due to the State Government "losing interest" in, and no longer funding, the project, and I ask:

- (a) is it correct that the Cook Government is no longer offering Ngarluma-Yindjibarndi Foundation legal permissions or a contract to keep managing the town;
- (b) is it correct that Cossack's museum, cafe, art gallery, and campgrounds have all been closed and can no longer be accessed by tourists;
- (c) what consideration has been given to the 10 trainees working with the Ngarluma-Yindjibarndi Foundation who will no longer have employment or training;
- (d) what will the Government be doing to resolve the closure as quickly as possible;
- (e) how quickly does the Government expect this situation to be resolved; and
- (f) what actions will be taken to protect the built and cultural heritage while this situation is resolved?

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Notice Given **Tuesday, 16 April 2024**

2011. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the public housing waitlist, and I ask:

- (a) for each of the following years, how many applications, and representing how many people, were added to the public housing waitlist:
 - (i) 2017-18;
 - (ii) 2018-19;
 - (iii) 2019-20;
 - (iv) 2020-21;
 - (v) 2021-22;
 - (vi) 2022-23; and
 - (vii) 2023-24 (to date);
- (b) for each of the years in (a), how many applications, and representing how many people, were removed from the waitlist for any reason other than having been provided with a public or community home;
- (c) for the year 2022-23, for what reasons were applications removed from the public housing waitlist; and
- (d) in reference to (c), how many were removed for each reason?

SAM HASTINGS

Clerk of the Legislative Council