

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No. 21

TUESDAY, 21 JUNE 2005

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: -

Tuesday, 5 April 2005

11. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
12. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Wednesday, 6 April 2005

13. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Housing and Works
14. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Housing and Works
20. Mr D.T. Redman to the Minister for State Development

Tuesday, 26 April 2005

24. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for State Development
25. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Premier
26. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Housing and Works
30. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health

Thursday, 28 April 2005

33. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Energy
34. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training
35. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources
36. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources

37. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources

Tuesday, 17 May 2005

- 38. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 39. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 40. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 41. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 42. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- 43. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 44. Mr M.J. Birney to the Attorney General; Minister for Health; Electoral Affairs
- 45. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 46. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 47. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 48. Mr T.R. Sprigg to the Minister for Sport and Recreation
- 49. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

Wednesday, 18 May 2005

- 50. Mr M.J. Birney to the Premier
- 51. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for Public Sector Management

Tuesday, 24 May 2005

- 52. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 53. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Tourism

Wednesday, 25 May 2005

- 55. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries
- 56. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Health
- 57. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Health
- 58. Mr R.F. Johnson to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

Thursday, 26 May 2005

- 59. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Tourism
- 60. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Seniors

Tuesday, 31 May 2005

- 61. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- 62. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Health

Wednesday, 1 June 2005

- 63. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Health
- 64. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Energy
- 65. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for the Environment
- 66. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for Water Resources

Questions listed for this sitting: -

- 67. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training
 - (1) I refer to the comments attributed to the Minister for Education and Training recently in The West Australian newspaper, where the Minister was reported as stating that she had no intention of delaying the implementation of the post secondary changes, and that it was highly unlikely that the committee would find the new system to be in any way negative, and ask given the Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee's inquiry into the proposed changes to the post-compulsory curriculum in Western Australian schools is currently underway, how does the Minister know what information the committee is collecting and what the committee's recommendations will be at the conclusion of their inquiry?
 - (2) Why is the Parliamentary inquiry into the serious concerns about OBA changes being conducted at the same time that the proposed changes are being implemented?
 - (3) Why is the current TEE system being completely dismantled just so that a few extra courses in the subjects used to calculate a TER are included?

- 68. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

I refer to the upgrade of the Pelican Point boat ramp and ask -

- (a) is it correct that the project will require consultation and/or approval by the Aboriginal community before any works can be carried out;
- (b) is this process mandatory;
- (c) will the Minister give an exemption to this process; and
- (d) what is the cost to have this consultation and/or approval undertaken and will it entail any cash payments?

- 69. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Health
 - (1) What is the standard staff allocation for regional dental clinics such as the Vasse Dental Clinic?
 - (2) How many dentists are currently working at the clinic and what is their employment status (full time, part time or other)?
 - (3) What region does the clinic service?
 - (4) How many people were in this region at the clinics inception?
 - (5) How many people are in this region now?
 - (6) Has the number of staff allocated to the clinic been adjusted for the increase in the population of this region?
 - (7) If yes, what is the extra staff allocation?

- (8) How much funding has the clinic received in the last five years?
- (9) When can the Vasse Dental clinic expect to receive the necessary funding to offer the region the same facilities and services as the Oral Health Centre in Perth?

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

- (1) I refer to the comments attributed to the Minister for Education and Training during the election that 'our TEE system is as good as any in Australia' and ask why is the Government planning to change it from a system which has a clearly defined syllabus, a high stakes examination process and high teacher accountability to the new proposed courses of study system often referred to as 'Outcomes based', which is characterized by a vague syllabus dependent on the background and skills of the teacher, decreasing emphasis on high stakes examinations and low teacher accountability?
- (2) Is it true that under the new proposed courses of study system (outcomes based education) subjects like woodwork, metalwork, cooking, sewing and automotive engineering will hold exactly the same status as physics, chemistry, literature and calculus in calculating a TER?
- (3) In this academic year how many choices of study do students have under the current TEE, wholly school assessed and Vocational Education and Training?
- (4) Under the new proposed courses of study system how many choices will students have?
- (5) If the new system offers a substantial reduction in choices, why is this so?
- (6) Why is the Curriculum Council advertising the new system as an 'increase in choice' for students?
- (7) I refer to the Curriculum Council and ask -
 - (a) how many members are there on the Council;
 - (b) of these members, how many have never held a school teaching position; and
 - (c) of these members, how many are currently practising teachers in schools?
- (8) I refer to the new proposed course of study system (outcomes based education) and ask -
 - (a) has this type of system, as proposed by the WA Curriculum Council, been introduced in a successful manner elsewhere; and
 - (b) if yes, where and how?
- (9) How does the new proposed courses of study system (outcomes based education) include what most teachers and parents would agree as essential components of a good education system, that being a clearly defined syllabus, a high stakes examination process and high teacher accountability?
- (10) Why is the education system moving from a system understood by parents which provides a grade, mark and average score to a new system lacking these factors and seen by many as imposed mediocrity?

71. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Water Resources

I refer to serious problems at the sewerage pumping station situated at the corner of Monash Boulevard and Eaton Drive, Eaton and ask -

- (a) is any equipment available to eliminate the odours escaping from the pumping station and if so, what is that equipment;
- (b) why has this equipment not been installed to date;
- (c) will it be installed and, if so, when; and

- (d) what is the associated cost?

72. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for Health

I refer to Western Australia's Department of Health and Department for Community Development offering a number of services to West Australians injured or impacted by the Boxing Day Tsunami and ask will the Minister detail in a whole of Government response -

- (a) the number of deceased West Australians (or their families) assisted;
- (b) the number of injured West Australians repatriated and seeking post-treatment in Western Australia;
- (c) whether the Department of Health is confident that West Australians hospitalised for a long period in Thailand and other affected countries have been assisted upon their return to Western Australia, specially those traumatised victims who do not actively seek support;
- (d) whether the Department is aware of any West Australians still hospitalised or recovering in Asia or interstate;
- (e) the total number of West Australians present in tsunami-hit areas of Asia; and
- (f) the number of West Australians who accessed the trauma helpline or direct counselling after the tsunami?

73. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Health

- (1) Will the Minister explain the State Government involvement in the allocation of paid paramedic staff to the St John's Ambulances regional depots?
- (2) What are the processes that determine the funding and allocation of funds that are provided by the State Government?
- (3) Who determined the need for paramedic services in Busselton?
- (4) What criteria determined the need for paramedic services in Busselton?
- (5) Why was there no consideration of the views presented by the Busselton St. John Ambulance Officers when the decision was made to transfer paramedics to Busselton?

74. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Justice

- (1) Does the Department of Justice have a written policy in regard to bullying in the workplace?
- (2) If so, has this policy been displayed in Regional Prisons for staff familiarisation?
- (3) I refer to report number 16 titled 'Report of an announced inspection of Bunbury Regional Prison December 2002' compiled by Professor Harding and printed in June 2003 which contains a statement of intimidation of female staff and ask -
 - (a) is it correct that the Department of Justice, in response, delegated the responsibility for this to local management;
 - (b) was this response supported by advice contained in the Code of Practice 'Workplace Violence' compiled by the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection; and
 - (c) will the Minister advise the correct procedure to address intimidation of female staff within the Department of Justice as outlined in the policy?

75. Mr M.J. Birney to the Premier

- (1) Will the Premier advise the number of employees that were working for the West Australian Government as at 30 June each year as far back as records will go?
- (2) Will the Premier advise the number of public servants that were working for the Western Australian Government as at 1 June 2005?
- (3) Will the Premier advise the number of public servants that were working for the Western Australian Government on the day that Labor took power?

76. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

- (1) Is the Minister aware of complaints that Shire workers employed by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River frequently do not get their pay on time?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm that the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River has had difficulty making funds available in time for Shire workers to receive their pay as scheduled?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details as to why these workers have been unable to receive their pay on time?
- (4) What action will the Minister take to ensure that workers employed by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River receive their pay on time?

77. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

- (1) Is the Minister aware of complaints that a 'fast tracking' system is in place for building and planning approvals at the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, whereby people can pay to have their plans assessed ahead of others?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm as to whether this system is, or has been, in operation at the Shire?
- (3) If such a 'fast tracking' system does exist, will the Minister provide details of this system and details of under what authority the Shire can implement such a system?
- (4) What action will the Minister take to ensure that all members of the community are able to have their approvals processed in an equitable manner?
- (5) Have planners been engaged by the Shire on a contract basis to accelerate the approvals process?
- (6) If so, what is the cost of this service to the Shire?

78. Ms K. Hodson-Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

- (1) I refer to the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the Brookdale Waste Treatment Plant, and concerns expressed by members of the local community that inappropriate conduct has occurred during the removal of remaining structures and ask will the Minister advise did the Department put the removal of the buildings on site out to tender, to enable the buildings to be salvaged properly?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If not, who did conduct the salvage operations?
- (4) Did the people or company involved in salvage operations have any links with Departmental or Ministerial staff?
- (5) Did the people or company that conducted the salvage operations make any financial gain from their actions?
- (6) If so, how much, and why was this allowed to occur?

- (7) Will the Minister confirm reports that asbestos was contained within the buildings, and that this dangerous material was removed without proper procedures?
- (8) If so, why was this allowed to occur?
- (9) Further, will the Minister confirm reports that after the buildings were removed, large and potentially hazardous pieces of asbestos were found on site?
- (10) If this is true, how was this allowed to occur?
- (11) Parents have also raised concerns that air monitors at the Forrestdale Primary School have been removed, and therefore there is no monitoring process of potentially hazardous material originating from the site, is this true, and what action will the Minister take to correct the matter?

79. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Health

- (1) Has the South West Area Health Service entered into or is in the process of entering into a twinning (or similar) relationship with an overseas Health service?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) which overseas health service;
 - (b) what is the cost of this twinning relationship;
 - (c) who has travelled to the overseas health service;
 - (d) who has been hosted by the South West Area Health Service; and
 - (e) of what benefit is the twinning programme to the residents of the Vasse Electorate?

80. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Peel and the South West

I refer to dot point 9 on page 1010 of the budget papers and ask will the Minister advise what progress has been made in the long term plan for the Breaksea Island heritage restoration project to develop the site as a niche eco-tourism and community education system through the Great Southern Development Commission?

81. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern

I refer to dot point 13 on page 1010 of the budget papers and ask will the Minister provide additional information on what the Great Southern Development Commission's role is in directly assisting regional employers in addressing skills shortages through nominations to the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and the Regional Temporary Employees to Australia visa subclauses?

82. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern

I refer to dot point 16 on page 1010 of the budget papers and ask will the Minister provide additional information on the tourism strategies and partnerships with Australia's South West Inc and Tourism WA to maximise volumes and yield to the region?

83. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern

I refer to dot point 1 on page 1010 of the budget papers and ask will the Minister provide additional information on the Great Southern Development Commission's development of a common user infrastructure package for the Mirambeena Timber Processing Precinct?

84. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern

I refer to dot point 1, under the heading of Major Initiatives for 2005-06, on page 1009 of the budget papers and ask will the Minister advise the progress of the Beacon's/Ligor Working Group and the Southdown Magnetite Deposit Working Group in bringing significant energy and timber processing projects and the proposed magnetite mine project to fruition?

85. Mr M.J. Birney to the Premier

- (1) Will the Premier advise the office budget allocated (not actual) for the office of the Leader of the Opposition for each of the years that he was the Leader of the Opposition?
- (2) Will the Premier advise the 'actual' office expenditure for the Leader of the Opposition's office budget for each of the years that he was the Leader of the Opposition?
- (3) Will the Premier advise the office budget allocated (not actual) for the office of the Leader of the Opposition for each of the years that the Hon. Jim McGinty was the Leader of the Opposition?
- (4) Will the Premier advise the 'actual' office expenditure for the Leader of the Opposition's office budget for each of the years that the Hon. Jim McGinty was the Leader of the Opposition?
- (5) Will the Premier advise the office budget allocated (not actual) for the office of the Leader of the Opposition for each of the years that the Hon. Colin Barnett was the Leader of the Opposition?
- (6) Will the Premier advise the 'actual' office expenditure for the Leader of the Opposition's office budget for each of the years that the Hon. Colin Barnett was the Leader of the Opposition?
- (7) Will the Premier advise the office budget allocated (not actual) for the office of the Leader of the National Party for each year since the 2001 State general election?
- (8) Will the Premier advise the 'actual' office expenditure for the Leader of the National Party for each year since the 2001 State general election?
- (9) Will the Premier advise the office budget allocated to the office of the Leader of the Opposition for the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06?

86. Dr E. Constable to the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training

- (1) I refer to newspaper advertising of TAFE adult community education courses and part-time courses and ask in which newspapers did TAFE advertise these courses last year?
- (2) Will TAFE advertise semester 2, term 3 courses in *The West Australian* newspaper in 2005?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) If no to (2), how will TAFE obtain maximum exposure for its advertisements of these courses so its enrolments do not suffer?
- (5) In which newspapers will TAFE advertise its semester 2, term 3 2005 adult community education and part-time courses?

PETER J. McHUGH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
