No. 40
TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2015

(At 11.00 o'clock a.m.)

Notices of Question

24 Mr Valentine to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With respect to the Parks and Wildlife Service (P&WS), can the Government provide —

(1) Broad detail, by category, of —

(a) Unintended events or accidents, if any, that have occurred in relation to construction or maintenance operations on walking tracks, huts, toilet facilities or other infrastructure over the past ten years in wilderness and park environments controlled or managed by the P&WS;

(b) Overall cost of remediation activity related to those events and the associated costs recovered from associated third parties?

(2) Information as to whether there are satisfactory contractual arrangements in place with commercial third-parties involved in such activities that ensure resultant costs for remediation following such events are appropriately apportioned to the contractor, where they are found to be at fault?

(3) What are the details of any changes to policy or any remedial action taken to prevent reoccurrence of such events?

(asked 19.11.14)

26 Ms Forrest to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government —

(1) (a) For each college in Tasmania, how many students were enrolled in year 11 in 2012 at the first census date in that year; and

(b) including all students, regardless of how many points in which they were enrolled, how many of these students in 2012 or 2013, were awarded the TCE in 2013?

Recognising that students who study less than a full time load in year 11 or year 12 will take more than two calendar years to complete the TCE from the time they enrol in year 11 —

(2) (a) For each college, how many students were enrolled in year 11 in 2009 at the first census date in that year; and

(b) including all students, regardless of how many points in which they were enrolled, how many of these students in 2009 and subsequent years, were awarded the TCE by 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013?

(3) (a) For each college, how many students were enrolled in year 11 in 2010 at the first census date in that year; and

(b) including all students, regardless of how many points in which they were enrolled, how many of these students in 2010 or subsequent years, were awarded the TCE by 2011, 2012 and 2013?
(4)  (a) For each college, how many students were enrolled in year 11 in 2011 at the first census date in that year; and

(b) including all students, regardless of how many points in which they were enrolled, how many of these students in 2011 or subsequent years, were awarded the TCE by 2012 and 2013?

(5)  What measure or measures does the Department of Education use to assess the success of the colleges in providing senior secondary education?

(6)  If the measures employed in questions (1) to (4) above are not routinely used, what quantitative assessment does the Department make of the relative performance of the colleges in supporting their students to complete the TCE?

(asked 26.11.14)

27 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance Revised Estimates Report 2014-2015 (including December Quarterly Report) page 27 - Mersey Hospital Funding —

In 2014-15, the Australian Government has only committed to a 12 month extension to the Heads of Agreement to 30 June 2015. The movement away from a three-year agreement for the Mersey Hospital creates a level of uncertainty as to future funding arrangements —

Can the Government explain what the impact on THO-North and THO-North-West, or the new THS would be if the agreement is not signed and the current funding ceased on 30 June 2015?

(asked 17.03.15)

28 Mr Hall to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — Given that Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) now houses more serious and violent offenders, can the Government provide details of —

(1)  (a) How many AYDC staff have been assaulted in the past 12 months;

(b) what has been the nature and severity of those assaults; and

(c) how many AYDC staff have had to seek medical and/or hospital treatment as a result of those assaults?

(2)  (a) How many AYDC staff in the past 12 months have taken sick leave and/or stress leave as a result of being physically assaulted; and

(b) how many AYDC staff are currently on sick leave and have lodged workers’ compensation claims?

(asked 17.03.15)

29 Mr Mulder to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — In the context of proposals for mandatory minimum sentencing of persons found in possession of stolen firearms — in the last three calendar years —

(1)  How many burglaries of premises have resulted in theft of more than one registered firearm?

(2)  How many thefts occurred where occupiers were present and were forced to by-pass security arrangements?

(3)  How many thefts occurred where security arrangements were inadequate or inactive?

(4)  (a) How many offenders have been prosecuted for the theft of firearms;

(b) how many of these offences were connected;

(c) what sentences were imposed by the courts; and

(d) were any of these sentences appealed?

(5)  (a) How many offenders have been prosecuted for possession of stolen firearms;

(b) how many were convicted and what sentences were imposed by the courts; and

(c) were any of those sentences appealed?

(asked 17.03.15)
NOTICES OF MOTION AND ORDERS

30 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance Revised Estimates Report 2014-2015 (including December Quarterly Report) page 2 - additional expenditure in THO-South and THO-North-West of $30 million which reflects above Budget expenditure in 2014-15 —

(1) Can the Government explain, by THO, the actual breakdown and provide the deficit/surplus figures for the three THOs for each year since they were created in 2012?

(2) Given the predicted deficit, can the Government indicate if the THOs in deficit will achieve a balanced budget for 2014-15 with these additional funds?

(3) (a) Given the Government has been prepared to fund the additional expenditure at THO South and THO North-West, will additional funds be provided to THO North to fund the obvious demand pressures in areas such as the Emergency Department and other areas; and

(b) if not why not?

(4) (a) Does the additional funding mean THO South and THO North-West have structural deficits and that the new Tasmanian Health Service (THS) will have to absorb these from 1 July 2015; and

(b) if so, will there be a guarantee to ensure the funds are not redirected from the North?

(asked 17.03.15)

31 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance Revised Estimates Report 2014-2015 (including December Quarterly Report) page 8 - strategic action 5, which states “Since the 2014-15 Budget, the Government has committed an additional $71.9 million to complete the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment Project” —

(1) Given this significant additional capital works funding, can the Government outline what capital works funding for health will be allocated for the rest of the State over the next three years?

(2) Can the Government give an assurance that there will be capital works funding allocated to allow required building projects such as the new St Helens Hospital?

(asked 17.03.15)

32 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government —


“The increase in Specific Purpose Payments reflects an increase in National Health Reform funding of $4.1 million due to revised activity levels”

Can the Government explain where this funding has been allocated?

(2) With reference to the same Report at page 20 —

Other grants and subsidies is $7.9 million higher. The increase in other grants and subsidies includes an increase in Australian Government Funding relating to Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenditure (COPES) for the Department of Health and Human Services and the THOs —

Can the Government explain where this funding has been allocated?

(asked 18.03.15)

33 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance Revised Estimates Report 2014-2015 (including December Quarterly Report) page 22 - Major Expense Variations —

Whereby it states “The increase in Employee Expenses primarily reflects:

additional Health and Human Services expenditure relating to employee separation costs ($10.0 million); a $12.1 million increase in THO-South’s expenditure reflecting the Employee Expenses portion of an additional $22.0 million above Budget expenditure;
a $3.5 million increase in THO-North West’s expenditure reflecting the Employee Expenses portion of an additional $8.0 million above Budget expenditure;

Can the Government indicate how this has been allowed to occur, given this has not occurred in THO North? (asked 18.03.15)

34 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance Revised Estimates Report 2014-2015 (including December Quarterly report) page 28 - Employee Separation Costs —

In the 2014-15 Budget, the Government indicated that funding to assist any cost of employee separations would be funded from established central resources consistent with previous approaches.

Funding of $10 million has been allocated to the Department of Health and Human Services and $10.4 million to the Department of State Growth, by way of a loan arrangement —

Can the Government provide a breakdown of where this funding has been allocated and for what occupations? (asked 18.03.15)


Increasing costs associated with the provision of health services continue to represent a significant risk to the Budget. The implementation of savings measures in this environment is also a challenge and is particularly important to ensure that these services are able to be delivered on a sustainable basis. The establishment by the Government of a single statewide health service on 1 July 2015 will be a significant factor in the future management and delivery of sustainable health services in Tasmania —

Can the Government explain why one THS will be a significant factor in managing this additional risk, and what plans they have should this not occur in 2015-16? (asked 19.03.15)

36 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance Revised Estimates report 2014-2015 (including December Quarterly report) pages 30 and 82 - Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment —

Since the 2014-15 Budget, following significant review, $71.9 million of additional funding has been approved for the Royal Hobart Redevelopment project. The additional funding will be required in 2017-18 and 2018-19. $54.8 million has been provided from the infrastructure provision in 2017-18 to meet additional costs in that year.

(1) Can the Government provide an assurance that the Trust and Operating Account balances as detailed is an accurate reflection of all Trust Accounts held by each THO?

(2) Will there be any changes to their governance arrangements under one THS? (asked 19.03.15)

37 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government — With reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance Revised Estimates report 2014-2015 (including December Quarterly report) Page 23 - Supplies and Consumables – which reads —

The increase in supplies and consumables primarily reflects:

an increase of $8.0 million in THO-South’s expenditure reflecting the Supplies and consumables portion of an additional $22.0 million above Budget expenditure;

an increase of $4.0 million in THO-North-West’s expenditure primarily reflecting the supplies and consumables portion of an additional $8.0 million above Budget expenditure —

Can the Government explain how this has been allowed to occur, given this has not occurred in THO North? (asked 19.03.15)
38 Mrs Armitage to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government —

(1) (a) Does the Government agree that there are serious deficiencies in diabetes services in the northern part of the State by not having a permanent full-time endocrinologist at the LGH for more than a decade and waiting times at the LGH and NWRH in the range of 7-16 months; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to address the deficiency?

(2) What is the Government’s intention with regard to the current inequity in the specialist endocrinology workforce between the north/north-west and southern region of the State which currently is 0.8 FTE compared with 3.7 FTEs in the southern half of the State?

(3) (a) Is the Government aware that access to private endocrinologists in the north and north-west region is limited; and

(b) if so, is it satisfactory that patients requiring specialist diabetes care must engage with a seriously inadequate service, the vast majority of which is provided by the public sector?

(4) Does the Government agree with the Endocrinology Clinical Advisory Group, chaired by Professor John Burgess of the Royal Hobart Hospital in their response to the Green Paper where only a minimal increase in specialist endocrinology staffing in the north together with the amalgamation of the endocrinology services at the LGH and the NWRH was recommended?

(5) (a) Will the White Paper on the redesign of the Tasmanian health system address inequality of diabetes/endocrine services between the northern and southern regions; and

(b) if so, will the matter of appropriate access to specialist care for patients in the north and north-west regions be addressed in order to limit the impact of their condition and keep them out of hospital by having access to appropriate outpatient specialist care?

(asked 19.03.15)

Notices of Motion

1 Mr Dean to move — That the Legislative Council —

(1) Notes the Parliamentary Internship Project “An evaluation of the possible introduction of electronic monitoring as a bail option in Tasmania”; and

(2) Calls on the Government to review, cost and consider electronic monitoring bracelets as a bail option addition.

2 Mr Dean to move — That the Annual Report of the Department of Police and Emergency Management 2013-2014, be considered and noted.

3 Ms Forrest to move — That the House refers the following matters to Government Administration Committee A for inquiry and report —

(1) The financial position of the major energy entities taking into account their half yearly financial statements;

(2) Factors impacting on the future profitability and financial performance of the major energy entities;

(3) Implications and potential impacts of AER determinations on financial performance of the major energy entities;

(4) The impact of small scale energy generation on the major energy entities;

(5) The impact of Federal Government decisions regarding renewable energy policy on the major energy entities; and

(6) Any matters incidental thereto.

4 Mr Hall to move — That the Legislative Council reiterates its call for the Tasmanian Government to introduce a container deposit system, similar to that of the Northern Territory and South Australia and also the recent commitment to such a scheme by the New South Wales Government.
Mr Hall to move — That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, with leave to sit during any adjournment of the Council, and with leave to adjourn from place to place to inquire into and report upon —

The challenges surrounding the growth of business enterprises within Tasmania with particular reference to —

1. The economic diversification for Tasmania as a region - by identifying opportunities to implement changes which will ultimately deliver a long term internationally competitive framework, which will grow Tasmania’s performance in the tourism, hospitality, retail services and agriculture sectors of the State’s economy;

2. Any challenges associated with the referral of Tasmania’s powers under the Industrial Relations (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2009; and

3. Any other matters incidental thereto.

And further that the Select Committee consist of six Members.

And that —

Mrs Armitage;
Mr Dean;
Mr Farrell;
Ms Rattray;
Mrs Taylor; and
The Mover be of the Committee.

Orders of the Day

1. Public Health Amendment (Tobacco-free Generation) Bill 2014 (No. 40): Second reading. (Private Member’s Bill)


6. Consideration of the following Message from the House of Assembly —

“MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly having agreed to the following Resolution, begs now to transmit the same to the Legislative Council, and to request its concurrence therein:—

Resolved, That the House —

1. (a) recognises that the ABC’s Four Corners program of 16 February 2015, brought to public attention the issue of live baiting in Australia’s greyhound racing industry;

(b) notes the efforts of whistleblowers at Animals Australia and Animal Liberation Queensland who gathered crucial evidence for the ABC and authorities;

(c) acknowledges the Four Corners program resulted in a high level of public concern about animal welfare standards in the greyhound racing industry, including thousands of emails to Members of Parliament in Tasmania;

(d) recognises that since Four Corners went to air, allegations have been made of live baiting, wastage – the euthanizing of dogs that do not perform or are past their best, and draining – the draining of blood from a dog before it is euthanized - happening in Tasmania;
NOTICES OF MOTION AND ORDERS

(e) notes that while many Members of Parliament have received these reports, since the Four Corners program was broadcast, the RSPCA has received nine calls in relation to live baiting and all have been followed up, with none identified as requiring further action; and

(f) notes the comprehensive recommendations made by the Director of Racing and the Chief Veterinary Officer as a result of their review of animal welfare provisions in the greyhound racing industry.

(2) That a Joint Select Committee be appointed with power to send for persons and papers with leave to sit during any adjournment of either House exceeding 14 days and with leave to adjourn from place to place, and with leave to report from time to time, to inquire into and report upon:—

(a) practices in the Tasmanian greyhound racing industry, including whether live baiting, ‘wastage’ and ‘draining’ of greyhounds is occurring, and if so, to what extent;

(b) the role of regulatory authorities in upholding animal welfare standards in the industry and encouraging best practice;

(c) the level of state government funding provided to the industry in Tasmania in the form of a 20 year funding deed signed in 2009;

(d) the comprehensive report already completed by the Director of Racing and the Chief Veterinary Officer into these issues and the 29 recommendations for consideration by the State Government;

(e) any other matters incidental thereto; and

(f) that the number of Members to serve on the Committee on the part of the House be four, two nominated by the Leader of Government Business, one nominated by the Leader of Opposition Business and one nominated by the Honourable Member for Bass, Mr Booth and that the Joint Select Committee report by 30 June 2015.

House of Assembly, 18 March 2015

E.N. ARCHER, Speaker”.


9 Crown Employees (Salaries) Bill 2014 (No. 22): Adjourned Debate (Mrs Taylor) on the Question proposed on 24 September and again on 25 September 2014 — That the Bill be now read the Second time.


D.T. PEARCE, Clerk of the Council.

PAPERS ISSUED

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Notice Paper No. 40
Bill No. 8

SUMMARY OF BILLS

Read First Time

| Bill No. 3 of 2014 | Partition (pro forma). |
| Bill No. 40 of 2014 | Public Health Amendment (Tobacco-free Generation). |
| Bill No. 41 of 2014 | Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment (Validation). |
| Bill No. 2 | State Grants Commission Amendment. |
| Bill No. 6 | Public Health (Miscellaneous Amendments). |

Second Reading Debate Adjourned

| Bill No. 22 of 2014 | Crown Employees (Salaries). |

Second Reading Negatived

| Bill No. 31 of 2014 | Education Amendment. |
NOTICES OF MOTION AND ORDERS

In Committee

Bill No. 12 of 2014 Launceston Flood Risk Management.
Bill No. 37 of 2014 Co-operatives National Law (Tasmania).

Awaiting Third Reading

Bill No. 25 of 2014 Coroners Amendment.

Agreed to by Both Houses

Bill No. 4 of 2014 First Home Owner Grant Amendment (Act No. 5 of 2014).
Bill No. 5 of 2014 Employment Incentive Scheme (Payroll Tax Rebate) Amendment (Act No. 6 of 2014).
Bill No. 6 of 2014 Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) (Act No. 12 of 2014).
Bill No. 7 of 2014 Consolidated Fund Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2013-14) (Act No. 2 of 2014).
Bill No. 8 of 2014 Consolidated Fund Supply (No. 1) (Act No. 3 of 2014).
Bill No. 9 of 2014 Consolidated Fund Supply (No. 2) (Act No. 4 of 2014).
Bill No. 13 of 2014 Climate Change (State Action) Amendment (Act No. 7 of 2014).
Bill No. 15 of 2014 Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) (Act No. 25 of 2014).
Bill No. 18 of 2014 Genetically Modified Organisms Control Amendment (Act No. 10 of 2014).
Bill No. 19 of 2014 Local Government Amendment (Mayoral Candidate Eligibility) (Act No. 10 of 2014).
Bill No. 20 of 2014 Consolidated Fund Appropriation (No. 1) (Act No. 13 of 2014).
Bill No. 21 of 2014 Consolidated Fund Appropriation (No. 2) (Act No. 14 of 2014).
Bill No. 22 of 2014 Racing Regulation Amendment (Race Fields) (Act No. 18 of 2014).
Bill No. 23 of 2014 Travel Agents Repeal (Act No. 17 of 2014).
Bill No. 24 of 2014 Surveyors Amendment (Act No. 23 of 2014).
Bill No. 27 of 2014 Child Care Amendment (Act No. 16 of 2014).
Bill No. 28 of 2014 Taxation Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Act No. 21 of 2014).
Bill No. 29 of 2014 Land Tax Rating Amendment (Act No. 22 of 2014).
Bill No. 30 of 2014 First Home Owner Grant Amendment (No. 2) (Act No. 20 of 2014).
Bill No. 32 of 2014 Repeal of Regulations Postponement (Act No. 19 of 2014).
Bill No. 35 of 2014 Forensic Procedures Amendment (Act No. 28 of 2014).
Bill No. 36 of 2014 Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Streamlining of Process) (Act No. 24 of 2014).
Bill No. 38 of 2014 Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust Amendment (Act No. 27 of 2014).

STANDING COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

Committee of Privileges: Mr Dean, Mr Finch, Dr Goodwin, Mr Hall (Chair of Committees) and Mr Wilkinson (President).
Standing Orders Committee: The President (Mr Wilkinson), The Chair of Committees (Mr Hall), Ms Forrest, Dr Goodwin and Mrs Taylor.
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (Joint): Mr Farrell and Mrs Taylor.
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Joint): Ms Forrest, Mrs Hiscutt and Ms Rattray.
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts (Joint): Mr Dean, Ms Forrest and Mrs Taylor.
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Integrity (Joint): Mr Dean, Mr Gaffney and Mr Mulder.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

House Committee (Joint): The President (Mr Wilkinson), Dr Goodwin and Mr Hall.
Library Committee (Joint): Mr Farrell, Mr Finch, Ms Forrest, Ms Rattray, Mr Valentine and Mr Wilkinson.
Government Administration A: Mr Armstrong, Mr Farrell, Ms Forrest, Mr Gaffney, Mrs Hiscutt and Mr Mulder.
  • Medicinal Cannabis
Government Administration B: Mrs Armitage, Mr Dean, Mr Finch, Mr Hall, Ms Rattray, Mrs Taylor and Mr Valentine.
  • Tasmanian Electoral Commission
  • Heritage Tourism

SELECT COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS

Preventative Health Care (Joint): Ms Forrest, Mr Gaffney, Mrs Taylor and Mr Valentine.