



**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
**SESSION OF 2025 - 2026**  
(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

**NOTICES OF QUESTION**

No. 6

TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2026

**Notices of Question**

- 4 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Environment– In relation to the 2024 Climate Change Activity Statement that referred to core funding of \$2.6 million and an additional \$2 million over four years for research collaboration between the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the University of Tasmania “to better understand the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems, marine industries and cultural practices, and develop options for adaptation”:
- (1) What relevant research has been commenced or concluded on these topics, and how can any published research be accessed by members of the public? (2 December 2025)
- 5 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables– With respect to the impact of electricity infrastructure on the management and rehabilitation of wildlife:
- (1) What statutory, regulatory or policy obligations apply to TasNetworks in relation to the care, treatment and rehabilitation of wildlife injured as a result of contact with electricity transmission or distribution infrastructure?
  - (2) What assessment has the Government undertaken of the proportion of raptor injuries and fatalities in Tasmania attributable to TasNetworks’ powerlines and poles?
  - (3) Has the Government or any of the relevant departments or TasNetworks previously provided direct financial support to wildlife rehabilitation organisations for the treatment of birds injured by electricity infrastructure? If so:
    - (a) over what period was the funding provided?
    - (b) what was the annual amount?
    - (c) when and why was that funding ceased or altered?
  - (4) What current funding arrangements, if any, exist between TasNetworks and:
    - (a) Bonorong Wildlife sanctuary;
    - (b) Raptor Refuge;
    - (c) Raptor Care NW;
    - (d) Wildlife Network Tasmania; and
    - (e) other organisations and providers related to the rehabilitation of wildlife?
  - (5) What criteria are used to determine which wildlife rehabilitation organisations receive funding associated with wildlife injured by electricity infrastructure?
  - (6) What assessment has the Government undertaken regarding:
    - (a) the availability in Tasmania of large-scale flight aviaries suitable for long-term raptor rehabilitation; and
    - (b) which facilities are equipped to rehabilitate wedge-tailed eagles and grey goshawks for release?
  - (7) What is the estimated annual cost of rehabilitating raptors injured by electricity infrastructure in Tasmania?
  - (8) What proportion of these rehabilitation costs is currently met by:
    - (a) TasNetworks;
    - (b) direct State Government funding; and
    - (c) non-government sources, including donations and volunteer labour?
  - (9) What is the Government’s policy position regarding financial responsibility for wildlife injury caused by government-owned or regulated infrastructure?

- (10) Is the Government considering reinstating or introducing consistent, direct funding arrangements for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services treating species injured by electricity infrastructure, including wedge-tailed eagles and grey goshawks?
- (11) What mitigation measures are currently required of TasNetworks to reduce raptor injury and mortality from electricity infrastructure?
  - (a) How are these measures monitored?
  - (b) What performance indicators are used to assess their effectiveness?
- (12) What reporting mechanisms are in place to ensure transparency regarding:
  - (a) raptor injury and mortality linked to electricity infrastructure; and
  - (b) the effectiveness of mitigation programs?
- (13) What further actions are under consideration by the Government and TasNetworks to reduce preventable raptor deaths associated with electricity infrastructure? (4 March 2026)

6 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Primary Industries and Water– With respect to the management and rehabilitation of wildlife regarding electricity infrastructure:

- (1) What statutory, regulatory or policy obligations apply to TasNetworks in relation to the care, treatment and rehabilitation of wildlife injured resulting from contact with electricity transmission or distribution infrastructure?
- (2) What assessment has the Government undertaken of the proportion of raptor injuries and fatalities in Tasmania attributable to TasNetworks' powerlines and poles?
- (3) Has the Government or any of the relevant departments or TasNetworks previously provided direct financial support to wildlife rehabilitation organisations for the treatment of birds injured by electricity infrastructure? If so:
  - (a) over what period was the funding provided?
  - (b) what was the annual amount?
  - (c) when and why was that funding ceased or altered?
- (4) What current funding arrangements, if any, exist between TasNetworks and:
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  - (a) raptor injury and mortality linked to electricity infrastructure; and
  - (b) the effectiveness of mitigation programs?
- (13) What further actions are under consideration by the Government and TasNetworks to reduce preventable raptor deaths associated with electricity infrastructure? (4 March 2026)

- 7 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables– With respect to rainfall and hydro catchments:
- (1) What is the minimum average annual rainfall required for hydroelectric generation in Tasmania to remain operationally and economically feasible?
  - (2) For each major hydro catchment region in Tasmania:
    - (a) What is the current average annual rainfall (in millimetres)?
    - (b) What is the projected average annual rainfall for each future decade to 2050 and 2100, respectively?
    - (c) How do these projections differ from historical averages?
    - (d) What is the estimated impact of projected changes in rainfall and inflows on total hydroelectric generation capacity (in gigawatt hours per annum)?
  - (3) What assessment has the Government undertaken regarding the effect of native forest logging on:
    - (a) annual precipitation levels; and
    - (b) hydro catchment inflows?
  - (4) Are there identified locations in Tasmania suitable for the construction of new conventional (non-pumped) hydroelectric dams? If so:
    - (a) how many potential sites have been identified?
    - (b) where are they located?
    - (c) what is the estimated generation capacity (in megawatts and gigawatt hours per annum) of each site?
  - (5) What is the estimated potential for small-scale conventional hydro generation in Tasmania?
  - (6) Is Hydro Tasmania currently undertaking, or has it undertaken within the past five years, assessments to identify potential sites for new small-scale or large scale conventional hydro developments, and if so, what is the size and location of those proposed schemes? (4 March 2026)
- 8 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables– With respect to Hydro Tasmania finances:
- (1) Has Hydro Tasmania been formally valued as a business entity within the past five years? If so:
    - (a) when was the most recent valuation conducted?
    - (b) what was the assessed enterprise value?
  - (2) What level of financial or operational risk exposure has been identified for Hydro Tasmania should the following projects proceed:
    - (a) Marinus Link;
    - (b) proposed artificial intelligence data centres in Launceston;
    - (c) proposed e-fuel production facilities in Burnie; and
    - (d) any other major new industrial energy loads currently under consideration? (4 March 2026)
- 9 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables– With respect to available energy supply for emerging industries:
- (1) In the scenario where Marinus Link does not proceed as proposed or at all, but proposed Artificial Intelligence data centres and the e-fuel facilities do proceed to construction:
    - (a) how many many gigawatt hours of electricity would need to be supplied to these businesses?
    - (b) what percentage of Tasmania’s total energy demand could be supplied by hydroelectric generation?
    - (c) what modelling underpins this assessment?
  - (2) In relation to company contracts:
    - (a) what contracts, if any, are currently in place with data centres or e-fuel companies?
    - (b) what is the amount of electricity supply guaranteed per contract, itemised for each contract, in gigawatt hours per year for the next ten years? (4 March 2026)
- 10 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables– With respect to hydro dam storage, generation improvements, and risk management:
- (1) What is the current operational policy range for hydro dam storage levels?
    - (a) What are the minimum and maximum target storage percentages?
    - (b) What is the policy rationale for operating within this range?
  - (2) What efficiency improvements are presently available for turbine power generation across Hydro Tasmania assets?

- (3) What is the estimated additional generation capacity achievable through turbine upgrades alone?
- (4) Has Hydro Tasmania undertaken additional catchment modelling for existing power stations to determine potential increases in generation capacity and if so, what additional capacity (in megawatt and gigawatt-hour per annum) has been identified as feasible?
- (5) What assessment, if any, has been undertaken regarding the impact of large-scale artificial intelligence data centres on:
  - (a) grid stability;
  - (b) voltage fluctuations;
  - (c) frequency control within the Tasmanian power system; and
  - (d) will the Minister please make these assessments publicly available?
- (6) What impact, if any, will the proposed Marinus Link have on energy grid stability in Tasmania? In relation to potential impacts:
  - (a) what technical solutions will the Government, in cooperation with Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks, put in place to ensure negative impacts are mitigated in the scenario where Marinus Link is constructed?
  - (b) what risk, if any, is there of the Tasmanian system frequency moving outside acceptable operating ranges?
  - (c) what specific risks would this present to Hydro Tasmania assets?
  - (d) what, if any, mitigation measures are in place or able to be put in place to manage these risks?
- (7) Using the most recent available year-to-date figures, what is:
  - (a) Tasmania's total electricity consumption (in gigawatt-hours), including detailed internal usage by sector;
  - (b) the total volume of electricity exported via Basslink (in gigawatt hours);
  - (c) the projected future Tasmanian electricity consumption under a scenario where Marinus Link Stage 1 is constructed;
  - (d) the projected export volumes under a Marinus Link stage 1 scenario; and
  - (e) the projected Tasmanian electricity consumption under a scenario where Marinus Link is not constructed and Basslink is not recommissioned at the end of its operational life? (4 March 2026)

**11** Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables– With respect to the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target (T-RET) of 200 per cent renewable energy by 2040:

- (1) Does the Government or Hydro Tasmania have any policies, directions, directives, guidelines, or legislative requirements to provide a cap on energy development at 21000 gigawatt hours in Tasmania, which represents the doubling of the 10500 gigawatt hours baseline figure on which the 200 per cent T-RET is based?
- (2) If there is no cap or limit, does the Government or relevant Department or Business Enterprise have any intention to establish an upper limit? (4 March 2026)

**12** Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables– With respect to industry demand for electricity in Tasmania:

- (1) Please outline:
  - (a) which major electricity customers are projected to increase their electricity consumption;
  - (b) the combined number of gigawatt hours per year these industries or entities are asking for;
  - (c) what time frame the increase in electricity supply is needed; and
  - (d) a breakdown of the details of gigawatt hours per year, for each company with an individual timeline of projected electricity consumption over the next decade.
- (2) Does the Government have any medium or long term assurances from major electricity customers that they will continue to operate in Tasmania and demand similar levels of electricity in the future?
- (3) If no assurances or guarantees are in place, is the Government over estimating predicted demand for electricity consumption in Tasmania? (4 March 2026)

**13** Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Primary Industries and Water– With respect to water licences in Tasmania:

- (1) How many water licences are currently issued in Tasmania?
- (2) How are water licences allocated, and under what legislative or regulatory framework?
- (3) Who is eligible to purchase or hold a water licence in Tasmania?

- (4) Is there a maximum number of water licences that may be held by a single property owner, corporation, or related entity? If so, what is that maximum?
- (5) Are there any competition, concentration, or ownership regulations that limit how many water licences an individual, corporation, or related entities may own?
- (6) Who is currently the largest holder of water licences in Tasmania, whether by volume or number of licences? (4 March 2026)

**14** Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Primary Industries and Water– With respect to water licences and water use by finfish aquaculture companies:

- (1) Have any finfish aquaculture companies, their subsidiaries, or related corporate entities, ever purchased or otherwise acquired water licences in Tasmania?
- (2) In the past 24 months, how many water licences have been purchased or otherwise acquired by finfish aquaculture companies, their subsidiaries, related corporate entities, or representatives? Please advise:
  - (a) Which finfish aquaculture companies have been involved in purchasing or acquiring these water licences?
  - (b) In which regions, catchments, or water management areas have these water licence purchases or acquisitions occurred?
  - (c) What total quantity of water (by megalitres per annum) is currently allocated to finfish aquaculture companies under water licences in Tasmania?
  - (d) What quantity of water is used annually by finfish aquaculture companies for the purpose of washing salmon to remove lice?
  - (e) What price per megalitre is being paid for water used for lice treatment purposes, and how is that price determined? (4 March 2026)

**15** Mr *Garland* to ask the Attorney-General– With respect to evidence related to the Port Arthur tragedy that occurred in 1996:

- (1) Following the court proceedings in relation to the Port Arthur tragedy:
  - (a) which agencies or judicial representatives were responsible for issuing the 30-year embargo on court documents and evidence?
  - (b) on what specific date does the 30-year embargo on evidentiary material relating to the case, expire?
  - (c) what specific categories of documents and evidentiary material will become publicly accessible upon expiry?
- (2) What specific actions has the Government taken during the past 12 months to prepare for the expiry of the embargo and the public release of this documentation?
- (3) Which agency has primary responsibility for managing the public release of the material, and what funding will be allocated for this process?
- (4) What direct consultation, if any, has occurred in the past 12 months or will occur in coming months with:
  - (a) victim-survivors,
  - (b) families of those affected;
  - (c) the Tasman and Sorell municipalities; and
  - (d) the broader Tasmanian community?
- (5) What funded mental health, counselling, or community support services will be in place at the time of release? (4 March 2026)

**16** Mr *Garland* to ask the Treasurer– With respect to the cost-of-living pressures on King Island:

- (1) What is the total amount of financial assistance currently provided by the Government to King Island residents and/or businesses for the purpose of offsetting the higher costs associated with shipping and freight services, including but not limited to:
  - (a) freight equalisation or subsidy schemes;
  - (b) residential relief arrangements;
  - (c) business support programs;
  - (d) medical travel and treatment access schemes; and
  - (e) any other relevant assistance measures?
- (2) What is the total annual value of this state-based assistance for King Island residents, expressed:
  - (a) as a total figure, per financial year, between 2019-2020 and 2025-2026;
  - (b) on a per capita basis per year?
- (3) Over the past ten years:

- (a) has the per capita value of this assistance increased in real terms when adjusted for inflation?
  - (b) if so, by how much in percentage and dollar terms?
  - (c) if not, what has been the real change over that period?
- (4) What specific measures does the Government have in place, or under active consideration, to further address the disproportionate cost of living and operating on King Island arising from geographic isolation and existing inadequate shipping arrangements? (4 March 2026)

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House.*