



TASMANIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SESSION OF 2024

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT)

NOTICES OF QUESTION

No. 8

TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2024

Notices of Question

- 5 Ms *Haddad* to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to the Witness Intermediary Scheme:
- (1) How many people have been employed as witness intermediaries since the introduction of the scheme, broken down by court registry?
 - (2) Have any witness intermediaries been engaged to assist in court, and if so, how many times, broken down by court registry?
 - (3) Have any hearings had to be adjourned or delayed due to the unavailability of a witness intermediary, and if so, how many times, by court registry?
 - (4) If there have been delays due to unavailability of a witness intermediary, how long has each delay been in months? (23 May 2024)
- 9 Ms *White* to ask the Minister for Business Industry and Resources – In August 2020, Tasmanian Alkaloids opened a new medicinal cannabis venture with the help of a \$10 million government loan:
- (1) Has the loan now been repaid in full?
 - (2) If the loan has not been repaid in full, when will it be? (23 May 2024)
- 10 Ms *White* to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to the independent review into whether Public Officers received grants of legal assistance during the Commission of Inquiry:
- (1) When will the independent review into whether Public Officers received a grant of independent legal assistance during the Commission of Inquiry be delivered to the Attorney-General?
 - (2) Does the Attorney-General plan to publish this report when received, and if so, when will it be published? (13 June 2024)
- 11 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Justice – In relation to complaints made to Work Safe Tasmania and any investigations:
- (1) Does Work Safe Tasmania assess and/or investigate the complaints it receives?
 - (2) In the past 15 years, how many complaints have been made to Work Safe Tasmania?
 - (3) Of those complaints to Work Safe Tasmania, how many have been assessed?
 - (4) Of those complaints to Work Safe Tasmania, how many have been progressed to investigation?
 - (5) How many investigations have resulted in findings that have been found in favour of the complainant?
 - (6) What were the full range of consequences to those subject to adverse findings of those investigations? (13 June 2024)
- 14 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Housing and Planning – In relation to the planning process and the approvals of Robbins Island Wind Farm Development application:
- (1) Did the planning process assess the development of a wharf and access through Back Banks against the State Coastal Policy, which refers at Clause 1.4.2 that development on actively mobile landforms such as frontal dunes, such as Back Banks on Robbins Island, will not be permitted, and if so, did the Circular Head Council, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Tasmanian Civil Administration Tribunal (TASCAT) fail to apply Clause 1.4.2 against the planning approvals?

- (2) Did TASCAT overrule the EPA's requirement for the wind farm to shut down for five months of the year due to environmental considerations related to birdlife?
- (3) Has the Minister for Energy and Renewables flagged changing the rules to suit at least one private developer, and cover over the failures of the planning authorities who did not meet the standard required?
- (4) Did the Premier make recent comments that the project has undergone "enormous scrutiny" and if so, do you agree with these comments?
- (5) Has there been adequate scrutiny by planning authorities over this project, and if not, what will you do about it?
- (6) Can you explain how the Robbins Island wind farm development application was approved by the Circular Head Council Planning Authority and the Environment Protection Agency with the appeal against the approval rejected by TASCAT, despite the application not being assessed against the State Coastal Policy?
- (1) Are there any areas in Tasmania where there are approved developments on actively mobile landforms such as frontal dunes, and if so, for each of these examples, provide the date and approving authority of when those developments were approved? (13 June 2024)

15 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Resources – In relation Robbins Island:

- (1) Was an application to construct a wharf to extend the North-East of Robbins Island in Bass Strait from an access road through Back Banks coastal dunes made part of the Robbins Island wind farm proposal?
- (2) Was this development inconsistent with the State Coastal Policy and fail to comply with the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*?
- (3) If this wharf is approved and built, would this wharf be:
 - (a) privately or publicly owned?
 - (b) accessible to be used by the public and if so, give details on any limitations to this access?
 - (c) accessible to be used by entities upon negotiation (if privately owned) and if negotiations would take place with Robbins Island landowner(s), the owner(s) of the wharf infrastructure, or the State Government?
 - (d) accessible to be used by business, companies, or corporations to undertake operations? and;
 - (e) available for use for future fin fish farming enterprises that wanted to use this infrastructure? (13 June 2024)

16 Ms *White* to ask the Minister for Justice – In relation to the Burnie Court Complex:

- (1) Has the State Government submitted a business case to the Federal Government for additional funding for the Burnie Court so that family law matters can also be heard in the new complex, and if so, when?
- (2) If additional funding was sought, can the Minister confirm that the amount of funding sought was \$15 million, and if not how much funding was sought?
- (3) Has the Minister taken steps to progress an outcome with the Federal Government that guarantees family law matters can be heard in the North-West of Tasmania, and if so, what are these steps?
- (4) If the State Government has submitted a business case to the Federal Government, has the State Government been asked by the Federal Government to provide any further information since submitting a business case, and if so, what was this information?
- (5) Has the State Government considered what further action they could take to fund the Burnie Court Complex to ensure the North-West does not miss out on the ability to build a brand new Burnie court in the CBD that provides access to justice for all matters locally, and if so, what are these actions? (20 June 2024)

17 Ms *Rosol* to ask the Minister for Health – In relation to Covid-19:

- (1) Since Friday 12 April 2024:
 - (a) have any people have been hospitalised due to Covid-19, and if, so how many in each month?
 - (b) have any people have been hospitalised with Covid-19, and if, so how many in each month?
 - (c) have any people have been admitted to ICU due to Covid-19 infection, and if so, how many in each month?
 - (d) have any people have died of Covid-19, and if, so how many in each month?

- (e) If there have been Covid-19 deaths, have any of those people who died of Covid-19 during this period, acquired SARS-COV-2 in hospital while receiving treatment for another condition, and if so, how many? and;
 - (f) have any hospital wards have been closed due to Covid-19, and if so, for how long?
 - (2) What is the data on hospital acquired Covid infection in our major hospitals in each of the years of the pandemic?
 - (3) What action has public health taken to improve indoor air quality in Government run facilities, including hospital wards and clinics, schools, and offices? (1 August 2024)
- 18** Ms Rosol to ask the Minister for Children and Young People – In relation to Covid-19, have there been any lockdowns in Ashley Youth Detention Centre due to staff sickness from Covid-19, and if so, how many times has this occurred? (1 August 2024)
- 19** Ms Rosol to ask the Premier – In relation to Covid-19, has there been any staff personal leave during the 2023-24 financial year in the public service taken due to Covid-19 infection, and if so, what percentage? (1 August 2024)
- 20** Ms Rosol to ask the Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation, in relation to Covid-19, have there been any lockdowns in Tasmanian prisons due to staff sickness from Covid-19, and if so, how many times has this occurred? (1 August 2024)
- 21** Dr Woodruff to ask the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources – In relation to Sustainable Timber Tasmania certifications:
- (1) Have any payments been made to Responsible Wood Standard 4708, or FSC standard for certification or audits for Sustainable Timber Tasmania, and if so, what are these payments?
 - (2) Please provide any audits made of Sustainable Timber Tasmania for 2022-2023 and 2021-2022 by these organisations. (6 August 2024)
- 22** Mr O'Byrne to ask the Minister for Education – Currently, the Tasmanian Education Department considers any teacher with a teaching degree is capable of teaching any subject in high school. Having qualified and specialised teachers ensures better education outcomes for Tasmanian students:
- (1) How many science and math teacher roles in Tasmania are performed by specialist teachers, by region?
 - (2) How many teachers trained in physical education are working as science and math teachers by region? (7 August 2024)
- 23** Mr O'Byrne to ask the Minister Primary Industries and Water – In relation to feral deer populations in Tasmania:
- (1) Has the Government assessed which of Tasmanian's satellite feral deer populations in Zone 3 of the fallow deer management plan are still eradicable, and if so:
 - (a) which regions is it considered feasible for? and;
 - (b) which regions are the highest priority?
 - (2) How will the government ensure the World Heritage Area remains deer free in the future?
 - (3) Has the government undertaken any costings or planning to reduce the population of feral deer in surrounding areas, including the Central Plateau Conservation Area?
 - (4) Has the government applied for any further federal government funding for deer control to protect the World Heritage Area, including through reducing the population in surrounding areas?
 - (5) Will the government commit to eradicating deer from the Central Plateau Conservation Area?
 - (6) Has the government undertaken a comprehensive study of the costs of feral deer to the Tasmanian economy, industry and the environment which would complement the recent hunting study:
 - (a) if so, what were the results of this work? and;
 - (b) if not, will the government commit to undertaking this? (7 August 2024)
- 24** Mr O'Byrne to ask the Minister Primary Industries and Water – In relation to feral pigs on Flinders Island which threaten at least 30 native plant and animal species and damage Ramsar-listed wetlands:
- (1) How many feral pigs are on Flinders Island?
 - (2) What steps is the government taking to control the feral pig population?

- (3) Will the government commit to developing a plan to eradicate feral pigs from Flinders Island?
(7 August 2024)

25 Mr O'Byrne to ask the Minister Primary Industries and Water:

- (1) Can you please detail the vertebrate pest and weed management and invasive species eradication projects that are currently underway on Tasmania's offshore islands?
- (2) Can you detail what successful invasive species eradication projects on Tasmania's offshore islands?
- (3) What funding opportunities or streams are currently available for vertebrate pest and weed management and invasive species eradication projects on Tasmania's offshore islands? (7 August 2024)

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House.*