

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: I

ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

I. Provide a timeline of events from:

- the time you were first briefed on the emergency;
- the formation and subsequent meetings of the inter-departmental response committee;
- any recommendations from the inter-departmental committee and the action taken;
- the first briefing of Cabinet; and
- when payments under the National Partnership Agreement (\$2.1 million) were made.

ANSWER:

I. A timeline of events is attached, including key dates, decisions and instruments under the *Emergency Management Act 2006* and *Public Health Act 1997*.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 5.8.20

COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Date	Event					
Week 20 January	Premier briefed on COVID-19					
29 January	Tasmanian rock lobster industry support measures announced					
30 January	World Health Organisation declares the novel coronavirus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern					
2 February	First meeting of the Heads of Agency Coronavirus Interdepartmental Committee (IDC)					
3 February	Meeting of the Coronavirus IDC					
11 February	Meeting of the Coronavirus IDC					
18 February	Meeting of the Coronavirus IDC					
24 February	Meeting of the Coronavirus IDC. The IDC key decisions: were focussed around whole-of-government collaboration in relation to the COVID-19 early response, supporting the Department of Health to respond including the provision of resources and decided that the IDC would transition to the State Emergency Management Committee process;					
2 March	First confirmed Tasmanian coronavirus case; State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) stood up; Activation of the Ministerial Committee for Emergency Management (MCEM) which continues to meet on a weekly basis					
11 March	World Health Organisation declares COVID-19 a pandemic					
13 March	Meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), agreement to form National Cabinet and discussion on COVID-19					
15 March	Cruise ships suspended					
16 March	National Coordination Mechanism commenced; SEMC Meeting COVID-19					
17 March	Tasmanian Government announces \$420 million social and economic support package;					
17 March	1	Declaration by Director of Public Health	Section 14	Declaration of Public Health Emergency	7 days	Expired See Number 14 NB. With the emergency legislation the declaration is taken to have been made for 12 weeks from 17 March 2020.

Current
No longer in force

COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

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17 March	2	Direction by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Direct each person in Tasmania who has arrived in Australia from overseas on/after 16 March 2020 to isolate for 14 days and complete the form when directed	NA	Revoked on 9 May 2020. See Number 71
19 March	SEMC Meeting COVID-19					
Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
19 March	3	Authorisation of Authorised Officers by State Controller	Section 31(3)	Employees of Biosecurity Tasmania – appointed authorised officers	NA	NA
19 March	4	Declaration by Premier	Section 42	Declaration of State of Emergency	-	See Number 5
20 March	5	Declaration by Premier (Amended)	Section 42	Declaration of State of Emergency – amended to state that it has effect for 12 weeks	12 weeks	Extended on 11 June 2020 See Number 91
20 March	6	Direction by State Controller	Section 45	To Regional Controllers – not to exercise Schedule 1 powers	NA	NA
Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
20 March	7	Combined authorisation and Direction by State Controller (Prepared by Health)	Section 40, 41	Persons who arrive in Tasmania on/after midnight on 20 March 2020 are required to isolate (save the persons listed in Schedule 1 – which include persons exempted by DPIPWE) Minister notified on 21 March 2020	7 days	Revoked on 26 March See Number 18

	Current
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COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

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20 March	8	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	<p>Directions for Specified Persons in Schedule 1 (<i>which include persons considered by DPIPW</i>) who arrive in Tasmania on/after 20 March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sleep alone - Monitor health for symptoms - Cease work if displaying a symptom, return home & contact the Public Health Hotline - 1.5m restriction when obtaining supplies/services - Cover mouth when coughing/sneezing - Use & dispose of tissues - Wash hands - Wears a surgical mask/protective equipment if in close contact with vulnerable persons. 	14 days of the person's arrival or for so long as there is an emergency declaration in effect (whichever is the shorter)	<i>NOTE – These Directions have been superseded by Directions made on 8 April 2020. However they have not formally been revoked. See Number 38</i>
Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
21 March	9	Authorisation of Emergency Powers by State Controller	Section 40	<p>Authorisation of all Schedule 1 powers to all members of the Police Service – to ensure compliance with directions of the Director of Public Health & directions/requirements of the State Controller Minister notified on 21 March</p>	7 days (but taken to be 12 weeks with the amendments)	Extended on 12 June 2020 See Number 93

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COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

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23 March	10	Authorisation of Emergency Powers by State Controller	Section 40	Authorisation of all Schedule 1 powers to the State Controller <i>Minister notified on 23 March</i>	7 days (but taken to be 12 weeks with the amendments)	Extended on 12 June 2020 See Number 92
23 March	11	Direction by State Controller	Section 40	Prohibition on aircraft landing except at 6 specified airports	Until further notice	Revoked on 27 March See Number 20
23 March	12	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Restrictions from the opening of pubs, clubs, hotels, gyms, indoor sporting venues, cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, night clubs, restaurants, cafes		Revoked on 26 March 2020 See Number 16
23 March	13	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Aged Care, specifically restricting visitation but allowing for care and support visits (2 people for 2 hours maximum)		Superseded by Directions made on 7 April 2020 but have not been revoked. See Number 34
23 March	Payment from the Australian Government to the Department of Health under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response - \$2 106 814					

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COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
24 March	14	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 14	Further Declaration of Public Health Emergency	7 days	Expired See Number 28
25 March	Rents waived for 6 months for Tasmanian Government-leased property (to private/commercial tenants), applied from 1 March 2020, providing rent relief to the value of approximately \$4.8 million.					
25 March	15	Exercise of special emergency powers by State Controller	Section 43	Takeover of Fountainside Hotel, UTAS	Until further notice	
26 March	Parliament adjourns					
	Tasmanian Government announces \$565 million Social and Economic Support Package					
26 March	16	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Closure of Schedule 1 premises from 26 March 2020 Cessation of Schedule 2 services from 26 March 2020, including the provision of religious gatherings, religious ceremonies, religious instruction, non-denominational ceremonies and other similar services and ceremonies, unless the services are lawfully provided remotely by electronic means. Restrictions on mass gatherings, 500 outside, 100 inside.	Until further notice	Revoked on 27 March 2020. See Number 22
26 March	17	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to persons diagnosed with COVID 19. Requirement to self-isolate.	NA	Further directions were made in relation to diagnosed persons on 17 April 2020. These directions were not revoked. See Number 56

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	No longer in force

COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
26 March	18	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions to isolate for 14 days (all arrivals in Tasmania, King Island and Flinders Island) Direction to provide information to authorised officers	Until further notice	Revoked on 27 March 2020. See Number 19
27 March	19	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Direction for every arrival in Tasmania to isolate for 14 days (save Schedule 1 unless from OS) Direction for every arrival to answer questions	Until further notice	Revoked on 17 April 2020. See Number 58
27 March	20	Direction by State Controller	Section 40	Prohibition on aircraft landing except at 7 specified airports	Until further notice	
27 March	21	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to King Island, Flinders Island and Islands in the Furneaux Group. No travel to King Island, Flinders Island, or Furneaux Group islands except for residents.	Until further notice	Revoked on 12 April 2020
27 March	22	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Closure of Schedule 1 premises from 27 March 2020 Cessation of Schedule 2 services from 27 March 2020 Restrictions on mass gatherings to 10 persons	Until further notice	Revoked on 31 March 2020 See Number 26

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COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
28 March	23	Directions by State Controller Tilyard	Section 40	Arrivals from 28 March to isolate for 14 days in a facility specified and to comply with directions of an authorised officer and to remain in rooms provided. Exception: Schedule 1 people	Until further notice	Revoked on 29 March See Number 25
29 March	24	Authorisation of Emergency Powers	Section 40	Authorisation of Biosecurity Tasmania of Schedule 1(1)(b),(c)(m)(n)(o)(p)(q)(t) powers to ensure compliance with directions of DPH and SC	12 weeks	Was extended on 19 June 2020 to have effect from 20 June 2020 until 10 July 2020. See Number 96
29 March	25	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Arrivals from 29/3 to isolate for 14 days, comply with directions of an authorised officer & to isolate at accommodation specified by authorised officer & remain in room provided. Exception: Families with children who live in Tasmania (unless arriving from OS) in which case they isolate at their residence Exception: Tas residents under 17 (and unaccompanied) (unless arriving from OS) Exception: S1 people to comply with DPA’s direction of 20/3 for 12 weeks <i>[See Number 8]</i> Notification to Minister 30 March	12 weeks	Revoked on 17 April. See Number 58
Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up

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30 March	A woman in her 80s in the North West Regional Hospital is the first Tasmanian to die of COVID-19					
30 March	26	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Closure of Schedule 1 premises from 31 March 2020 Cessation of Schedule 2 services from 31 March 2020 Restriction on gatherings to 2 people	Until further notice	Revoked on 3 April 2020 See Number 32
30 March	27	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Restriction on movement unless shopping for supplies or services that are lawfully operating; exercising; attending medical or health care appointments/treatment; vet services; social support; school; property maintenance; “reasonable excuse” (Stay At Home – Number 1)	Until further notice	This has not been revoked however further similar directions were made on 7 April 2020 See Number 37
30 March	28	Declaration by Director of Public Health	Section 14	Extension - Declaration of Public Health Emergency	Until midnight 7 April 2020	Expired See Number 35
31 March	29	Exercise of special emergency powers	Section 43	Devonport 3 East (TasPorts) land comes under control of State Controller	Until further notice	
1 April	New measures implemented for visitors to Tasmanian prisons including suspension of all personal visits, commencement of video visits and provision of additional phone credit every prisoner					
	Tasmanian Government commences local government loans program, providing \$147 million in no interest loans to 20 local councils for upgrades, renovations and maintenance on existing local government infrastructure					
1 April	30	Delegation by State Controller	Section 30	Delegation of functions and powers under Section 6 of the COVID-19 Disease Emergency legislation to the Deputy State Controller	NA	

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COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
1 April	31	Exercise of special emergency powers	Section 43	Takeover of the Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston	Until further notice	Rescinded on 22 May 2020. See Number 81
2 April	Introduction of provisions restricting rent increases or termination of residential tenancies under Section 22 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>					
2 April	32	Directions by Public Health Director	Section 16	Closure of Schedule 1 premises from 31 March 2020 Cessation of Schedule 2 services from 31 March 2020 Restriction on gatherings to 3 people; Cessation of garage sales, horse and dog racing, recreational scalloping	Until further notice	Superseded by Directions made on 8 April 2020 but have not been revoked. See Number 39
3 April	State Health Commander established a Tasmanian Health Service (THS) Incident Management Team and Outbreak Management Team to manage the North West Regional Hospital outbreak					
	Introduction of 12 month allowances for Local Government to facilitate electronic meeting and inspection of documents under Section 17, 18 and 19 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>					
	Introduction of 12 month fee waiver for liquor, gaming and casinos under Section 23 (1)(a) of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>					
4 April	Federal Government announces changes to temporary visa holders including visitor visa holders, international students, New Zealanders on 444 visas, temporary skilled visa holders, and Working Holiday visa holders to allow continued support for critical sectors including agriculture, education and healthcare					
7 April	33	Directions by Public Health Director	Section 16	Restrictions on guests entering hospitals	20 April 2020	Revoked on 17 April 2020. See number 54
7 April	34	Directions by Public Health Director	Section 16	Restrictions on guests entering aged care facilities, care and support visits no longer allowed.	20 April 2020	Revoked on 17 April 2020. See Number 55
7 April	35	Declaration by Public Health Director	Section 14	Declaration of Public Health Emergency	13 April 2020	Extended on 9 April 2020 See Number 40

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
7 April	36	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Closure of Castray Esplanade	Until further notice	
7 April	37	Directions by Public Health Director	Section 16	“Stay at home requirements No 2” Direction requiring people to remain at home except for shopping, exercise, medical treatment, social support/care, attending school or work, volunteering, performing essential maintenance.	8 April 2020 – 27 April 2020	Revoked on 14 April 2020 See Number 48
7 April	Payment from the Australian Government to the Department of Health under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response - \$5 520 178					
8 April	38	Directions by Public Health Director	Section 16	Directions in relation to Specified Persons (“Essential travellers”) Number 2. Requirement to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID and to take appropriate hygiene steps (washing hands, hand sanitiser etc)		Revoked on 4 May 2020 See Number 64
8 April	39	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	“Gatherings Number 6” Closure of Schedule 1 and 2 premises and services, gatherings restricted to 3 people		Revoked on 14 April 2020 See Number 50
9 April	Introduction of provisions restricting rent increases or termination of commercial tenancies under section 22 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>					
9 April	40	Declaration by Director of Public Health	Section 14	Extension of Emergency Declaration	From 14 April to 20 April	Extended on 17 April 2020 with effect from 21 April 2020. See Number 51
9 April	41	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Closure of parks and reserves	Until further notice	Revoked from 10 May 2020. See Number 68

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
11 April	42	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Quarantine in the North Western Region – Number 1. Requirement to self-isolate for 14 days for hospital employees, patients and close contacts		Revoked on 12 April 2020 See Number 45
12 April	43	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to King Island, Flinders Island and Islands in the Furneaux Group No travel to King Island, Flinders Island, or Furneaux Group islands except for residents.	Until further notice	Revoked on 15 May 2020 See Number 75
12 April	44	Exercise of Special Emergency Powers by State Controller	Section 43	Takeover of North West Private Hospital	Until further notice	Rescinded on 9 May 2020. See Number 70
12 April	45	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Quarantine in the North Western Region – Number 2 Requirement to self-isolate for hospital employees, patients, and close contacts	From 13 April 2020	Revoked on 14 April 2020 See Number 49
12 April	46	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Gatherings on the North West Region – Number 1	From 13 April to 26 April 2020	Revoked on 17 April See Number 52
12 April	47	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to the Mersey Community Hospital - Number 1 Requirement to self-isolate when not working	From 13 April	
14 April	Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) commences at North West Regional Hospital					
14 April	48	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Stay at home requirements – Number 3 Direction requiring people to remain at home except for shopping, exercise, medical treatment, social support/care, attending school or work, volunteering, performing essential maintenance.	From 14 April 2020	Revoked on 11 May 2020. See Number 72

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No longer in force

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
14 April	49	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Quarantine (North West Region) Number 3 Requirement to self-isolate for hospital employees, patients, and close contacts in the North-West		Revoked on 17 April 2020. See Number 53
14 April	50	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Gatherings – Number 7 Closure of Schedule 1 and 2 premises and services, gatherings restricted to 3 people		Revoked on 9 May 2020 See Number 74
15 April	Extension of Legislative Council election dates under the Constitution Act 1934, to be extended to a Saturday in June, July or August under Section 13 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>					
16 April	Increased testing in North West Tasmania					
17 April	Emergency Department reopens at North West Regional Hospital					
	Tasmanian Public Health Hotline capacity doubled					
	Tasmanian court hearings and sentencing procedures to be conducted in an approved manner as determined by the relevant entity (in effect for 12 months unless revoked earlier) under section 20 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>					
17 April	51	Director of Public Health	Section 15	Extension of Emergency Declaration	27 April 2020	Expired Further Extended See Number 61
17 April	52	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Gatherings (North-West Region) Number 2 Non-essential businesses and services closed in the North-West	26 April 2020	Expired Further Directions See Number 62
17 April	53	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Quarantine (North-Western Region) Number 4 Requirement to self-isolate for hospital employees, patients, and close contacts in the North-West		Revoked on 9 May 2020 See Number 71

	Current
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COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
17 April	54	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Hospitals Number 2 Restricting entry to hospitals for guests	4 May 2020	Expired. Further directions See Number 66
17 April	55	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Residential Aged Care Facilities Number 3 Restricted entry to aged care facilities for people who aren't residents/service providers, no 'care and support' visits allowed	4 May 2020	Expired. Further directions See Number 65
17 April	56	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Isolation Number 2 (persons diagnosed) Requirement to isolate until released by a relevant authority	-	
17 April	57	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Quarantine Number 1- Directions in relation to identified contacts, requirement to self-isolate	-	
17 April	58	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Consolidated directions for Tasmanian arrivals, quarantine, information Requirement for 14 day quarantine in government determined facility	12 weeks	Revoked on 18 April 2020. See Number 59
18 April	59	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to persons arriving in Tasmania Requirement for 14 day quarantine in government determined facility	12 weeks	Revoked on 4 April 2020. See Number 64
20 April	60	Exemption granted by State Controller		Exemption granted to state service employees to enable them to enter parks and reserves	Until further notice	The directions in relation to Parks and Reserves have been revoked See Number 68.
21 April	Tasmanian confirmed cases reach 200					

	Current
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COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
21 April		Payment from the Australian Government to the Department of Health under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response - \$16 000 000				
22 April		\$3 million support package for Temporary Visa Holders announced, including Pandemic Isolation Assistance Grants and Emergency Relief Assistance				
23 April		Freeze on residential rent increases until 30 June 2020 under section 22 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> (extended to 30 September 2020 on 23 June 2020)				
		Allowing for exemptions to some requirements the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> , in relation to use of land for Hospital Services, medical centres or consulting rooms, and relating to the display or public exhibition of documentation for development applications and planning scheme amendments under section 15 and 19 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>				
24 April	61	Director of Public Health	Section 15	Extension of Emergency Declaration	4 May 2020	Extended on 1 May 2020 See Number 63
26 April		All North West health workers to be tested before returning to work				
26 April	62	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Gatherings (North-West Region) Number 3 Non-essential businesses and services closed in the North-West	4 May 2020	Expired
27 April		Premier commits to an independent review of the North West outbreak				
28 April		Learning from home recommended from the start of Term Two, state government schools remain open				
30 April		Tasmanian Parliament resumes				
		Premier's 2nd ministerial statement, release of interim report into North West outbreak; Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Committee established				
		ADF and AUSMAT conclude support at NWRH				
1 May		New Tasmanian Mental Health Hotline established				

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
1 May	63	Director of Public Health	Section 15	Extension of Emergency Declaration	11 May 2020	
4 May	64	A/Director of Public Health	Section 16	Revocation of Specified Persons No.2	-	
4 May	65	A/Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Residential Aged Care Facilities – No.4 Restricted entry to aged care facilities for people who aren't residents/service providers, no 'care and support' visits allowed	Between 5 May 2020 and 11 May 2020	Revoked on 9 May 2020 See Number 73
4 May	66	A/Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Hospitals – No. 3 Restricted entry to hospitals for people who aren't patients or service providers	Between 5 May 2020 and 18 May 2020	Revoked on 17 May 2020 See Number 78
5 May	Tasmanian Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply register established					
5 May	67	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to persons arriving in Tasmania – including Maritime Crew Requirement for 14 day quarantine in government determined facility	Until further notice	Revoked on 15 May 2020 See Number 76
7 May	Testing expanded in Tasmania to 500 tests each day, with surge capacity of 1000 tests a day.					
7 May	Payment from the Australian Government to the Department of Health under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response - \$42 510 692					
8 May	Tasmania's Roadmap to Recovery released					

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8 May	68	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Revocation of Directions for the closure of Parks and Reserves	To have effect from 10 May 2020	
8 May	69	Exercise of Special Emergency Powers by State Controller	Section 43	Directions for classes of state service employees to be made available for emergency management	Until further notice	
9 May	70	Exercise of Special Emergency Powers by State Controller	Section 43	Rescission of directions requiring North West Private Hospital to be surrendered to the State Controller		
9 May	71	Director of Public Health	Section 16	Revocation of Isolation Direction dated 17/3/2020 & revocation of the Quarantine NW Directions dated 17 April 2020		
9 May	72	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Stay at Home Requirements – Number 4 Outdoors exercise must be within 30km of primary residence, and occur within the same day.	From 11 May 2020	Revoked on 17 May 2020 See Number 77
9 May	73	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions for Residential Aged Care Facilities – No.5 Care and support visits now allowed, max of 2 people for 2 hours	From 11 May 2020	Revoked on 24 May 2020 with effect from 25 May 2020 – See Number 82

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
9 May	74	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Gatherings Number 8	From 11 May 2020	Revoked on 18 May 2020 See Number 79
13 May	Freezing of fees under the <i>Fire Service Act 1979</i> for 2020-21 financial year and waiver of taxi and luxury hire car licence fees for 2020 (in effect for 12 months unless revoked earlier) under section 23 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>					
15 May	Tasmanian economic and fiscal update released					
15 May	75	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to King Island, Finders Island and Islands in the Furneaux Group of Islands No travel to King Island, Flinders Island, or Furneaux Group islands except for residents.	From 17 May 2020 until further notice	Revoked on 5 June 2020 See Number 86
15 May	76	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to Persons Arriving Government quarantine not required for residents of Tasmania, but still required to self-isolate for 14 days in primary residence	From 17 May 2020 until further notice	Revoked on 21 May 2020 See Number 80
17 May	77	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Stay at Home requirements – No.5		Revoked on 5 June 2020 See Number 88
17 May	78	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Hospitals – Number 4		Revoked with effect from 31 May 2020 See Number 85
17 May	79	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Gatherings – No 9		Revoked on 28 May 2020 See Number 83
19 May	Tasmanian Government COVID-19 Rent Relief Fund established, providing targeted support of up to \$2000 or four weeks rent for eligible tenants suffering from extreme hardship					

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Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
20 May		Allowance for changes to document requirements relating to permit applications under the <i>Water Management Act 1999</i> under section 19 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>				
21 May	80	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to Persons Arriving	Until further notice	Revoked with effect from 3:00pm on 5 June 2020 See Number 87
22 May	81	Exercise of Special Emergency Powers by State Controller	Section 43	Rescission of requirement in relation to Hotel Grant Chancellor		
		Extension of statutory timeframes for the 'substantial commencement' of a use or development approved by a permit, and display or public exhibition of documentation for Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs) and amendments to LPSs and the State Planning Provisions required under the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> to be by 'approved manner' under section 19 and 13 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>				
25 May		Tasmanian Year 11 and 12 students at extension schools and colleges, and Kindergarten to Year 6 students return to learning at school				
		First meeting of Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council				
25 May	82	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Residential Aged Care Facilities - Number 6		Revoked with effect from 29 May 2020. See Number 84
27 May		Extending statutory timeframes under the <i>Food Act 2003</i> and the <i>Public Health Act 1997</i> , to ensure that food businesses and those undertaking public health risk activities (tattooists, piercing businesses etc) do not have to renew their annual registrations/licences while they are subject to restrictions imposed on them as part of the pandemic response under section 13 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>				
28 May	83	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Gatherings – No. 10 Gatherings of 10 indoors/outdoors, gatherings of 5 in residential premises		Revoked at 3:01 on 5 June 2020 See Number 89
28 May	84	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Residential Aged Care Facilities- Number 7 Care and support visits allowed, max of 2 people for 2 hours	With effect from 29 May 2020	

	Current
	No longer in force

COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
		Fixed-term casual, relief seasonal and sessional workers with a current instrument of appointment (IOA) whose term of appointment is due to expire prior to the current emergency cessation date and but for COVID-19 would not have been offered a further IOA fixed-term casual (however named) employment but will now be extended by way of Notice until the emergency cessation date under section 16 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>				
30 May	85	Revocation of Direction by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Revocation of directions in relation to Hospitals No.4	With effect from 31 May 2020	
3 June	Opening of Tasmania's Temporary Visa Holder Skilled Employee Assistance Program					
4 June	Tasmanian Government announces \$3.1 billion construction blitz					
5 June	86	Revocation of Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Revocation of Directions in relation to King Island, Flinders Island and Islands in the Furneaux Group of Islands	With effect from 3:00pm on 5 June 2020	
5 June	87	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to persons arriving in Tasmania	With effect from 3:00pm on 5 June 2020	Revoked with effect from 11:59pm on 5 July 2020. See Number 98
5 June	88	Revocation of Direction by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Revocation of directions containing Stay at Home Requirements Number 5	With effect from 3:00pm	
5 June	89	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Gatherings – No. 11 Gatherings of 20 indoors/outdoors, gatherings of 10 in residential premises		Revoked from 12:00pm on 17 June 2020 See Number 95
6 June	90	Director of Public Health	Section 15	Extension of Emergency Declaration	For 12 weeks commencing 8 June 2020	

	Current
	No longer in force

COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
9 June		High school students from years 7 to 10 return to learning at school				
9 June		Payment from the Australian Government to the Department of Health under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response - \$9 276 133				
11 June	91	Declaration by Premier	Section 42(4)	Extension of Declaration of State of Emergency	Extension for 4 weeks	Will conclude on 9 July 2020
12 June		Tasmania records zero active cases				
12 June	92	Authorisation of powers by State Controller	Section 40(6)	Extension of State Controller's authorisation of powers to himself Consent obtained from Minister prior to extension of authorisation	Extension in effect until 10 July 2020	10 July 2020
12 June	93	Authorisation of powers by State Controller	Section 40(6)	Extension of State Controller's authorisation of powers to members of the Tasmania Police Service Consent obtained from Minister prior to extension of authorisation	Extension in effect until 10 July 2020	10 July 2020
13 June		Racing resumes in Tasmania				
14 June	94	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Workplace COVID Plan – No.1 Requirement for businesses to have a COVID plan	Commencing 15 June 2020	
17 June	95	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Directions in relation to Gatherings – No.12 Gatherings of 80 inside/outside, gatherings of 20 in residences	Commencing at 12:00pm	Revoked from 26 June 2020 See Number 97
17 June		Waive land tax in 2019-20 for those taxpayers that have a land tax liability assessed that is less than \$150.00 under section 23 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> .				
		Notice to allow for certain actions required under various Justice related legislation can be undertaken electronically under section 17 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> .				

	Current
	No longer in force

COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
19 June	96	Authorisation of powers by State Controller	Section 40(6)	Extension of State Controller's authorisation of powers to employees of Biosecurity Tasmania <i>Consent obtained from Minister prior to extension of authorisation</i>	Commencing 8:20pm on 20 June 2020 and with effect until 10 July 2020	10 July 2020
		Extending the validity of licences issued under the Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016, to now expire on 30 September 2020, and extending by 6 months the expiry date of a permit issued under section 143, 169, 193 or 260 of the <i>Building Act 2016</i> , under section 14 and 16 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i>				
24 June		Draft Terms of Reference for the Independent Review into the North West Tasmanian COVID-19 outbreak released for public comment				
		Freezing the 19/20 Motor Tax rates payable under the <i>Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999</i> under section 23 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> . Allowing for hearings of the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal to be held in an approved manner under section 20 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> .				
Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
26 June	97	Directions by Director of Public Health	Section 16	Management of Premises – No.1 Gatherings of 20 in residential premises	Commencing at 12:00pm	
29 June		10 million coronavirus cases confirmed worldwide, over 500,000 deaths				
30 June		Termination of leases made under the <i>Residential Tenancy Act 1997</i> prohibited, except in certain circumstances specified in the notice under section 22 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> . (Reissuing of notice from April, which was in effect for 90 days only).				
1 July		Postcode lockdown in Victoria in response to increasing cases of community transmission				
		Extending by 6 months the deadline for the Social and Economic Impact Study into gambling in Tasmania, under <i>section 151(5) of the Gaming Control Act 1993</i> and under section 13 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> .				

	Current
	No longer in force

COVID-19 Chronology – as at 8 July 2020

Key dates, decisions and instruments under the *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2006* and *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1997*

Executed Date		Description	Relevant Power	Summary	Period in Force	Comments / Follow up
5 July	98	Directions by State Controller	Section 40	Directions in relation to persons Arriving in Tasmania Specific requirements for people coming from Greater Melbourne	Commencing at 11:59pm on 5 July 2020	
7 July	Victorian Premier announces six-week lockdown for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell shire from midnight 8 July, stay-at-home orders reintroduced. Border closed between VIC/NSW effective 12.01am Wednesday 8 July.					

	Current
	No longer in force

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: 2

ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

2. When were the first testing kits ordered and what quantity was ordered? What was the total funding?

ANSWER:

2. The Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) assay test was designed in house in mid-January as commercial test "kits" were unavailable at the time. There are several components to the test as used and these were ordered starting from 21 January 2020. In the time since then the RHH have ordered \$796 750 worth of reagents and consumables, and Tasmania has now tested more than 60,000 samples (as at 22 July 2020).

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 25-7-20

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: 3

ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

3. When was the first COVID related PPE order made? What was ordered and how much funding was provided? Were subsequent orders made? If so, on what dates?

ANSWER:

3. Tasmania has long held a state-based pandemic stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical equipment. With global demand for PPE at unprecedented levels, the Government moved quickly to secure supplies of PPE above and beyond normal stocked levels.

The first order was on 26 March 2020 for 10 000 litres of hand sanitiser. This formed part of a contract to provide 20 000 litres of hand sanitiser at a cost of \$271 600 excluding GST.

The first order for PPE other than hand sanitiser was placed on 15 April 2020 at a cost of \$30 million. This order was for:

- 8 000 000 surgical masks (later reduced to 6 350 000);
- 120 000 face shields;
- 750 000 wipes;
- 2 000 000 KN95 respirator masks;
- 5 600 000 gloves (later increased to 11 352 000); and
- 1 200 000 goggles.

Subsequent orders of PPE have been made. Up to 10 July 2020, ECC PPE records show 37 orders made by the ECC at a cost of \$59 million. This is over and above usual PPE ordering levels.

As at 17 July, the State Pandemic Supply included the following supplies:

- 12,540 N95/P2 masks
- 6,149,750 surgical masks
- 7,002 litres of hospital grade hand sanitiser
- 43,570 gowns
- 6,044,900 gloves
- 1,145,439 eye protection and goggles
- 30,000 face shields

Importantly, new senior positions were established within the Health Emergency Coordination Centre specifically responsible for overseeing the management and logistics of personal protective equipment (PPE). This allowed PPE levels to be closely monitored and coordinated in the midst of challenges posed by global PPE supply shortages, and was on top of usual hospital PPE procurement and supply coordination.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 25.7.20

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: 4
ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC
ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

4. What resources were provided to the three major regional hospitals for COVID related staff training? Who undertook the training? What did the training focus on? When did the training occur?

ANSWER:

4. Infection control is a standard and core responsibility for all hospital settings.

Tasmanian Health Service medical, nursing and allied health professionals are trained in Infection Prevention & Control practices, which include participation in mandatory education held annually including PPE use and hand hygiene. There is also appropriate clinical expertise in the management of respiratory illness.

In January 2020, Public Health Services established an Incident Management Team, and in February the RHH Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Infectious Disease Service developed protocols for testing and hospitalisation of cases.

This outlined the actions required to respond and provide care to persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. The process is similar to that used for other similar infectious diseases. These arrangements formed the basis for protocols for other Tasmanian hospitals, and were rolled out in February 2020.

The Tasmanian Health Service has worked to ensure staff are aware of national guidelines regarding the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including online training resources on PPE donning and doffing and implementation of appropriate infection control management strategies to minimise transmission within the health care setting.

Areas of our major hospitals also ran a series of internal scenario-based simulation training exercises, commencing from mid-February 2020, as part of overall preparedness for COVID-19. These COVID-19 specific simulations were incorporated into established training programs, with a range of intradepartmental exercises taking place to support organisational preparedness.

In the South, various Departments undertook a range of scenario training covering receiving and transferring COVID positive patients, responding to deteriorating patients and the use of PPE. COVID specific training sessions commenced in early March 2020 to help prepare staff and also focused on communicating with patients and families.

The following are examples of the training performed at the Royal Hobart Hospital:

- COVID Met Call teams began training twice a week from Monday 2 March 2020
- The Emergency Department has been undertaking simulations on a weekly basis since Monday 16 March 2020.
- The Anaesthetic Department also undertake simulation training every Thursday from March including resuscitation of COVID patients
- There are ongoing simulations in the Department of Critical Care Medicine twice a month as part of the regular medical teaching program
- The Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Anaesthetics conducted training on Monday 6 April 2020, Thursday 16 April 2020 and Friday 24 April 2020.

The Launceston General Hospital commenced simulation training in mid February 2020. This included:

- Critical Care Simulation Training covering donning and doffing of PPE, transfer of patients and the role of spotters and clean teams for staff across multiple departments including:
 - Critical Care Nursing Staff
 - ICU Staff
 - Anaesthetics & Operating Theatre Staff
 - Consultants, RMOs, Registrar
 - Allied Health
 - Hospital Aides
 - Cleaning Staff
 - Support workers
- Note, a second round of refresher training commenced on a daily basis in July 2020 and is continuing.
- COVID Met Call and Code Blue Teams trained to respond in 'Hot' areas of the hospital.
- Upskilling of staff to increase the number of staff capable of providing care to critical care/High Dependency patients.
- The Acute Medical Unit undertaking training:
 - Mask Fit Refresher training on Monday 2 March 2020 and Tuesday 3 March 2020
 - PPE training which commenced on Monday 2 March 2020
 - Palliative Care for a COVID patient 12 March 2020.
 - COVID basic life support assessments from Monday 15 June 2020

- The Anaesthetics Department commenced training in March 2020 covering:
 - High level PPE for aerosol generating procedure for nurses surgeons and anaesthetists, attendants - including donning and doffing
 - Lower level PPE for medium risk
 - Extensive ICU nursing care training Including ventilator familiarisation
 - Intubation training with anaesthetist to minimise exposure
 - Training for cleaning post patients

In the North-West there was regular communication with Managers and staff around Training, resources and protocols for the management of COVID including:

- PPE Training resources circulated to staff from 30 January 2020
- Cleaning staff underwent training by Infection Control specialists on 3 February 2020.
- Updated PPE videos, including donning and doffing procedures circulated to staff on Thursday 13 February 2020.
- Presentations delivered to Hospital Auxiliary Staff on 24 February 2020 and Catering Staff on 2 March 2020 covering hand hygiene, social distancing, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette and exclusion periods if symptoms of an acute illness.
- Clinic Staff Orientation on COVID Respiratory Screening including Face to face PPE donning and doffing, specimen Collection and documentation training on Tuesday 10 March 2020
- PPE Training for NWRH Wards and an Anaesthetic /ED COVID Intubation Training Day was held on Friday 20 March 2020.
- From Tuesday 24 March 2020 through to Tuesday 31 March 2020 the following areas underwent face-to-face training covering topics such as PPE, Respiratory and hand hygiene cough etiquette and social distancing:
 - Attendants
 - Catering Staff
 - Theatre Staff
 - Anaesthetics
 - ED/Ambulance Staff
 - Pharmacy Staff
 - Speech Therapy

There was also clinical involvement in the development of plans to respond to COVID-19, as well as the escalations plans outlining the necessary changes to be implemented as the demand presented by COVID-19 increased and reached predetermined trigger points.

This process included the preparation of COVID-19 Preparedness Action Plans for the South, North and North-West in Mid-March 2020. The Action Plans were developed to help guide the response and included advice on how services would reconfigure spaces to deal with suspect COVID positive cases and what additional equipment they needed, including ventilators and PPE.

An important part of this process was the creation of hot and cold Emergency Departments at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Launceston General Hospital and North West Regional Hospital, which was designated as the receiving hospital for COVID-19 cases in the North West.

Following the Interim Report into the North West Outbreak, the following additional resourcing was put into place:

- Clinical Nurse Educators appointed to coordinate training;
- PPE Buddies/Coaches appointed to support appropriate PPE donning and doffing; and
- Infection Control and Prevention specialists provided guidance and support on-site.

The training was undertaken by all staff at Launceston General Hospital (LGH), North West Regional Hospital (NWRH), Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH), Mersey Community Hospital (MCH) and all Ambulance Tasmania (AT) staff.

The training focussed on:

- the 'COVID-19 Infection Control Training eLearning Module';
- a National Hand Hygiene training video;
- videos about PPE and Infection Control Precaution (ICP);
- reference to the Infection and Prevention Protocols, which include valuable guidance for many clinical areas; and
- PPE Buddy/Coaches appointed in each hospital to train the appropriate donning and doffing of PPE.
- Standardised PPE Protocol, Audit Tool and Audit Schedule for all major hospitals to use to ensure compliance.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 5.8.20

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: 5
ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC
ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

5. What date were additional ventilators ordered to prepare for COVID patients? How many were ordered? What funding was provided? Are these currently being used in the hospital system for other patients?

ANSWER:

Overview

In March 2020, the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre advised that Tasmania had access to approximately 47 ICU standard ventilators.

As part of the COVID-19 response, work commenced to increase the number of available ventilators by at least 100 – an effective tripling of the initial identified supply.

This was challenging due to global shortages being experienced by known and tested ventilator suppliers, and required the Health ECC together with representative intensivists (ICU specialist physicians) to test the bona fides, evaluate and negotiate with new national and international suppliers.

This was a conservative estimate, which the Department is working to achieve through purchase orders, as well as the identification of additional stock of transport and anaesthetic ventilators that could be used as part of the pandemic response, from across the public and private sectors.

Summary of purchase orders

In total, 80 additional ventilators were ordered across March and April 2020, with order dates as per the table below, noting one order was subsequently reduced by a supplier, reducing total orders to 66, at a cost of approximately \$3 million.

These orders comprised a mix of new ICU standard and transport ventilators. In addition, an order for 100 new emergency ventilators is currently being finalised.

Orders were placed on the following dates:

Order Date#	No.
10/3/20	10
11/3/20	5
13/3/20	27
17/3/20	8
30/3/20	10
29/4/20	20*
Order being finalised	100
Total	180*

#This reflects the date that order paperwork was finalised – in some instances preliminary orders were placed earlier with final paperwork submitted at conclusion of negotiations with suppliers.

*This order was later reduced by the supplier to 6 ventilators due to their capacity to supply. This reduces the total orders to 166.

In addition to Tasmanian-owned stock, the Commonwealth Government also holds a national stockpile of more than 5000 ventilators for States and Territories to access on an “as needed” basis.

Other stocks identified

As at 30 July 2020, Tasmania has 194 ventilators across the public and private sectors for the pandemic response, comprising 72 ICU standard ventilators, 48 transport ventilators and 74 anaesthetic ventilators, with 128 ventilators still to be delivered.

This includes stocks delivered through the orders above, as well as those identified in other areas – such as transport and anaesthetic ventilators.

As a result, Tasmania will have over 300 ventilators once orders are completed, which is expected to be later this year.

This is subject to final fulfilment of orders and routine decommissioning and replacement of ventilators.

Neonatal specific ICU standard ventilators are currently subject to a routine decommissioning and replacement process and are not included in these numbers.

Current use of ventilators

Some of the new ventilator purchases are already being used in the Tasmanian Health Service, with the remainder being held in a stockpile ready to be quickly operationalised again if demand levels require them to be.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Gutwein', written over the 'APPROVED/NOT APPROVED' text.

Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 5-8-20

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: 6

ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

6. What was the total cost for deep-cleaning the North West Regional Hospital, including the cost of all of the equipment that was required to be discarded?

ANSWER:

6. The costs recorded for the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) deep clean are \$1.8 million. This does not include the costs of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AUSMAT) who provided their services free of charge. There is no record of any capital equipment being discarded as part of the NWRH deep clean.

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED



Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 5-8-20

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: 7

ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

7. Which company will be conducting the independent audit of the COVID-19 Business Support and Grants program?

ANSWER:

7. Given the emphasis on speed of delivery of the COVID-19 small business grant programs, the Department of State Growth proactively engaged Wise Lord and Ferguson to conduct an audit of the processes underpinning these programs. This audit occurred concurrently with the programs being administered.

Further, the Auditor-General's 2020-21 work plan includes a number of audits on the response and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, including the stimulus measures and targeted financial support payments and expenditures related to COVID-19.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 5.8.20

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER: 8

ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Peter Gutwein MP

QUESTION:

8. Provide a list of successful and unsuccessful applicants to the COVID-19 Business Support and Grants program and the amounts awarded.

ANSWER:

8. Statistical information relating to the Grants and Loans programs is attached.

All applications were assessed by the Department of State Growth based on their merit. All successful applicants have met the requirements for the program guidelines and eligibility criteria.

It would be inappropriate to disclose specific details of funding recipients or applicants, successful or otherwise, given the nature of the grants being associated with hardship, and as such identification carries the potential to create additional hardship, whether emotional and/or financial.

Further, the release of such information may discourage small businesses from applying for assistance in future if they believe their details, financial affairs and/or difficulties will be released publicly.

So far, the Government's COVID-19 small business direct financial support measures have provided more than 18 000 grants and loans to Tasmanian small businesses to continue operating or prepare to resume operations and employ staff as restrictions are progressively eased.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED


Hon Peter Gutwein
Premier
Treasurer

Date: 5.8.20

Attachment I

Small Business Emergency Support Grants

Small Business Emergency Support Grants	Number
Total applications	14 382
Applications approved and paid	13 298
Applications ineligible, withdrawn or duplicate	1 084

Business Continuity Grants

Business Continuity Grants	Number
Total applications	4 281
Applications approved and paid	2 080
Applications ineligible, withdrawn or duplicate	2 201

Hardship Grants

Hardship Grants Awarded	Number
\$4 000 grants	1 540
\$15 000 grants	1 330
Total	2 870

Hardship Grants Refused	Number
Ineligible, withdrew or duplicated	1 125

Hardship Grant allocated by industry*		
INDUSTRY	\$4 000 Grant	\$15 000 Grant
Accommodation	122	96
Agriculture	42	31
Communication services	21	11
Construction	102	57
Cultural and recreational services	65	40
Education	29	15
Electricity, gas and water supply	7	3
Finance and insurance	10	2
Fishing	103	32
Forestry	6	1
Health and community services	75	55
Hospitality	282	549
Manufacturing	57	57
Mining	1	1
Personal and other services	140	64
Property and business services	62	34
Retail	306	199
Transport	63	36
Wholesale trade	22	25
Not specified on form*	25	22

**The data was collated via the optional response field: 'Which industry does your business operate in?' on the Small Business Hardship Grant Application Form.*

Business Support Loan Scheme

Business Support Loan Scheme	Number
Total applications	691
Total applications approved	364
Applications declined	272
Applications withdrawn	55