



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
SESSION OF 2024
 (FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT)

NOTICES OF QUESTION

No. 9

TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 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)
- 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)

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)

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 Timer 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)
- 26** Ms *Haddad* to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – In relation to scatter radiation:
- (1) Does the government collect regarding the health risks to medical staff, and in particular nurses, from prolonged exposure to scatter radiation in the state's catheterisation laboratory, and if so, what type of data?
 - (2) Has the government assessed the risk of the exposure to scatter radiation for health workers, and if so, what controls are in place for staff working in Tasmania's catheterisation laboratory?
 - (3) What steps, if any, is the government taking to manage this risk to health workers?
 - (4) Are the health and safety concerns of health workers at risk of exposure to scatter radiation in the catheterisation laboratory including interventional specialists and nursing staff being appropriately addressed, and if so, how?
 - (5) Are lead aprons the primary protection measure used by nursing staff and others, and if so, does the government recognise this only provides 60-70% body coverage and weights up to 12 kilograms?
 - (6) Is the government committed to modernising the protections provided to health workers at risk of exposure to the harmful impacts of scatter radiation including discontinuing the use of lead aprons as has happened in several other jurisdictions, and if so, how?
 - (7) How many staff work in the catheterisation laboratory and how many face the risk of exposure to scatter radiation? (16 October 2024)
- 27** Ms *Haddad* to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing:
- (1) In 2019, the Minister for Health endorsed the national Woman Centred Care Maternity Strategy. Since then, have any steps been taken to implement this strategy, and if so, what steps, including more access to a known midwife and respectful maternity care?
 - (2) Will Tasmania offer publicly funded home birthing, and if so, when? (16 October 2024)
- 28** Ms *Haddad* to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – In relation to birth trauma:
- (1) Are any supports provided to women who experience birth trauma in Tasmanian hospitals, and if so, what are these supports?
 - (2) Are efforts been made to reduce birth trauma, and if so, what?
 - (3) Is any data collected on birth trauma, and if so, what is this data? (16 October 2024)
- 29** Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to anti-protest laws:
- (1) Since their commencements, have any people been convicted under section 14B (2AA) and (2AB) of the *Police Offences Act 1935*, and if so, how many for each offence?
 - (2) Have any corporations been convicted under section 14B (2AC) of the *Police Offences Act 1935*, and if so, how many? (17 October 2024)
- 30** Ms *Badger* to ask the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, in relation to industry funding, in the last financial year, has any public money been given to the aquaculture, mining, forestry and gambling industries, and if so, how much for each? (17 October 2024)
- 31** Ms *Burnet* to ask the minister for Transport – In relation to public transport usage:
- (1) What percentage of Tasmanians used public transport in the last year?
 - (2) What percentage of Tasmanians have used public transport each month since the half-price fare program was brought in? (17 October 2024)
- 32** Mr *Bayley* to ask the Minister for Finance, in relation to industry taxation, in the last financial year, how much in state taxes and fees did the aquaculture, mining, forestry and gambling industries pay? (17 October 2024)

- 33 Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Premier – In relation to the allocation of money to community groups during the 2024 election campaign:
- (1) Please provide a full list of the community grants awarded during the 2024 election campaign.
 - (2) Both the Integrity Commission and the Auditor-General have made recommendations for the proper use of public money. Will you implement these recommendations, and if so, when? (17 October 2024)
- 34 Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources, in relation to salmon biomass in Macquarie Harbour, what was the peak reported biomass in Macquarie Harbour between December 2023 and March 2024? (17 October 2024)
- 35 Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to fines:
- (1) Were any applications rejected, in the past three years, for the Monetary Penalty Community Service Orders, and if so, how many each year?
 - (2) Is any data collected on how many people each year are charged with driving without a license or registration, after an enforcement action that cancels their license or registration, if so what is this data?
 - (3) Were any people incarcerated last year as a result of a warrant of commitment for the non-payment of fines, and if so, how many? (17 October 2024)
- 36 Ms *Badger* to ask the Minister for Parks and Environment – In relation to the Three Capes Track and the Overland Track:
- (1) Of walkers who paid to walk on the Three Capes Track over the last five years, broken down by month:
 - (a) what was the number of paying walkers? and;
 - (b) what was the income generated by paying walkers?
 - (2) How many walkers per month paid to walk the Overland Track over the last five years, broken down by month:
 - (a) what was the number of paying walkers? and;
 - (b) what was the income generated by paying walkers?
 - (3) What was the income generated by paying walkers on the Three Capes Track over the last five years?
 - (4) What was the income generated by paying walkers on the Overland Track over the last five years?
 - (5) What were the total expenses to operate the Three Capes Track for the past five years, itemising the costs for track work, staff, hut maintenance, helicopter use, marketing, etc.?
 - (6) What were the total expenses to operate the Overland Track for the past five years, itemising the costs for track work, staff, hut maintenance, helicopter use, marketing, etc.? (17 October 2024)
- 37 Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables – In relation to climate change mitigation in the transport sector:
- (1) Has any progress been made on the electric bus trial, and if so, what is this progress?
 - (2) What are the next stages of the electric bus trial, and when is it expected to be completed?
 - (3) When will you move bus electrification out of the trial phase and start electrifying the whole fleet, like other states and territories are doing?
 - (4) Are there any electric rebates left, and if so, how many?
 - (5) Why has no further funding for electric rebates been provided in the final sectoral plan for transport emissions?
 - (6) What percentage of the Government fleet has been converted to zero emissions vehicles in the last year?
 - (7) What percentage of the Government fleet have been converted to zero emissions overall, in line with your 2030 target for the fleet to be 100% zero emissions vehicles?
 - (8) Heavy vehicles equate to a large proportion of our transport emissions. Will you extend your target for 100% EV's in the government fleet to include other government vehicles, such as buses and rubbish trucks?
 - (9) In your transport sector emissions reduction plan, you commit to further electric vehicle charging grants. When will the next grant round open? (17 October 2024)

- 38** Mr *Bayley* to ask the Minister for Education – In relation to teacher staffing shortages:
- (1) Are there any teaching positions that are currently vacant across Tasmanian schools, and if so, how many?
 - (2) Are there any workplace improvements that you will commit to, to incentivise people to fill vacant teaching positions?
 - (3) Teachers say that classroom sizes are becoming unmanageable due to staffing shortages. What is the average ratio of students to teachers in schools?
 - (4) What workplace improvements will you commit making to incentivise teachers to stay within the profession?
 - (5) Teachers have reported that there are not enough teacher's assistants, support workers, counsellors or psychologists. What is the current ratio of these staff in schools to students? (17 October 2024)
- 39** Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to Right to Information (RTI's) requests:
- (1) In the last financial year, across government, what percentage of RTI requests were returned within legislative timeframes?
 - (2) The Tasmanian Government has the lowest rate of RTI applications granted in full in Australia. The Commission of Inquiry recommended the RTI Act be amended to introduce a presumption that all information sought is disclosable, with the presumption rebutted only where the government is satisfied it falls into an exemption category so that victim/survivors have access to information. When will you make these amendments to the Act to ensure that the public has access to government decision-making?
 - (3) In the last financial year, what was the average response time for external review by the Tasmanian Ombudsman of RTI's?
 - (4) How many RTI review requests are currently with the Tasmanian Ombudsman?
 - (5) What percentage of RTI decisions were overturned by the Tasmanian Ombudsman in the last financial year?
 - (6) To address RTI backlog, the EDO recommended that the RTI Act be amended to require a review of disclosures to be provided within thirty days. When will the Attorney introduce these reforms?
 - (7) The Integrity Commission report following its Investigation Gatehouse found that information was refused when it otherwise should not have been. The Commission made a number of recommendations to improve the RTI system, including that standardised RTI key indicators be included on performance agreements of principal officers. Has this been implemented?
 - (8) Does the Department of Health still have an RTI panel? If not, when was it disbanded? (17 October 2024)
- 40** Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to the Integrity Commission:
- (1) Have any investigations have been with the Integrity Commission for more than a year, if so, how many?
 - (2) Have any investigations by the Integrity Commission been concerned with currently sitting Members of Parliament, and if so, how many?
 - (3) Currently Members of Parliament and election candidates cannot be investigated during election campaigns;
 - (a) how do you justify sitting Members of Parliament, particularly Ministers, not being subject to Integrity Commission investigations during election campaigns? and;
 - (b) will you legislate to fix this issue?
 - (4) When will you legislate to give the Integrity Commission the teeth it needs to investigate third parties, corrupt conduct and matters covered by parliamentary privilege? (17 October 2024)
- 41** Dr *Woodruff* to ask the Minister for Energy and Renewables – In relation to climate change mitigation in the energy sector:
- (1) Your government says that lutruwita/Tasmania has the capacity for 100% renewable energy generation. However, last financial year, 82% of Tasmanian energy was renewable:
 - (a) what is the reason for this shortfall? And
 - (b) was our renewable power sent to the mainland, leaving Tasmania to use fossil fuels?
 - (2) How do you plan to ensure Tasmania's energy is 100% renewably sourced in the net financial year?
 - (3) How many people have taken up your Energy Saver Loan Scheme? What sorts of projects have been funded?

- (4) How many businesses have taken advantage of the Business Energy efficiency Scheme? What types of projects have been funded? (17 October 2024)

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House*.