



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS**

No. 122

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

(The Questions and Answers Paper published for the first sitting day in each week will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting and any new questions. On subsequent days, new questions are printed, as are questions to which answers were received the previous day. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown

<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 119 (Including Question Nos 1744 to 1745)	14 September 2017
Q & A No. 120 (Including Question Nos 1746 to 1747)	17 October 2017
Q & A No. 121 (Including Question Nos 1748 to 1758)	18 October 2017
Q & A No. 122 (Including Question Nos 1759 to 1763)	19 October 2017

**10 AUGUST 2017**

(Paper No. 119)

\*1744 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—WATER COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT—Ms Voltz asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, Minister for Trade and Industry—

I refer to your statement in the Council on 8 August 2017, where you said: "Since 2010 investigations have resulted in 27 prosecutions; 369 penalty notices; 377 stop work orders; 30 remediation notices and 140 advisory letters."

- (1) What is the breakdown, by year, for prosecutions, penalty notices, stop work orders, remediation notices and advisory letters?
- (2) How much in fines and penalty notices has been paid each year since 2010?

Answer—

- (1) The statement in the Council on 8 August 2017 was based on a preliminary assessment of compliance activities. A more detailed analysis of compliance activities by DPI Water under the Water Act 1912 and Water Management Act 2000 from 2010/11 to 2016/17 shows:

Action	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17*
Total breach reports received	509	460	531	883	761	635	600
Investigations finalised	475	372	538	840	792	787	495
Advisory letters	133	112	270	213	334	330	122
Warning letters	74	52	89	111	231	217	46
Remediation notices	21	53	58	92	75	74	15
Stop work orders	4	19	43	40	76	22	3
Penalty notices	27	44	79	51	98	70	14
Prosecutions	1	7	5	3	6	4	0

\* 16/17 shows composite data from DPI Water and WaterNSW following the transfer of functions from DPI Water to WaterNSW on 1 July 2016

- (2) Fines under penalty notices range from \$200 to \$750 for individuals, and \$1,500 for a corporation. Based on 383 penalty notices since 2010/11 total fines range from around \$76,000 to \$575,000. Of the 383 penalty notices since 2010/11, 119 were not paid and were referred to the State Debt Recovery Office.

\*1745 PREMIER—AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL CHRISTIAN SOCIETY GRANT—Ms Voltz asked the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier—

Has the Australian Multicultural Christian Society returned the \$10,000 grant it received under the Community Building Partnership Program?

Answer—

I refer you to my previous answers on this topic.

**14 SEPTEMBER 2017**

(Paper No. 122)

- 1759 PREMIER—TUMBERUMBA PLEBISCITE—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier—

On Saturday 9 September 2017 the Tumbarumba community held a plebiscite at every booth in the former Tumbarumba Shire alongside the council elections. Voters were asked: 'Should the Government restore the former local government area of Tumbarumba Shire, with a locally elected council'. The result was 95 per cent of all voters eligible to vote in the council elections voted in the voluntary plebiscite; of those that voted 93 per cent voted yes.

- (1) What action do you propose to take to address these legitimate concerns of the citizens of Tumbarumba?

- 1760 LANDS AND FORESTRY—PRIVATE NATIVE FORESTRY LICENCES—Ms Walker to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, Minister for Trade and Industry representing the Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Under what circumstance can a Private Native Forestry Licence be revoked?  
 (2) Have any been revoked in the last five years?  
 (a) If so, please provide the number of licences revoked and the reasons for revocation.

- 1761 LANDS AND FORESTRY—FIREWOOD IN FORESTY HARVEST PLANS—Ms Walker to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, Minister for Trade and Industry representing the Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing—

- (1) When did Harvest Plans for Eden and Southern Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) Regions begin indicating yields of firewood expected in logging operations?  
 (2) What was the total of firewood yield in:  
 (a) the Eden RFA Region?  
 (b) Southern RFA Region in each year since separate listing for firewood yields began?  
 (3) What was the firewood yield as a percentage of the total yield in each of the two Regions in each year:  
 (a) 2014?  
 (b) 2015?  
 (c) 2016?  
 (4) Does the Forestry Corporation have records or estimates of firewood yields before they were separately listed in Harvest Plans?  
 (a) If so, what were they by tonnage and as a percentage of total yield for each year that they were available?

- 1762 ENVIRONMENT—THREATENED SPECIES SNIFFER DOGS—Ms Walker to ask the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage—

In 2016, the Government announced a team of sniffer dogs would be used to find threatened species as part of the Saving Our Species program. In regards to the initiative:

- (1) How many dogs have been trained in this program?  
 (2) How many of the dogs have been trained to find koalas?  
 (3) Are the dogs being used in our State forests?  
 (a) If not, why not?

- 1763 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL REEF ON THE SOUTHERN TWEED COAST—Ms Walker to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, Minister for Trade and Industry—

On 28 July 2017, it was reported that a \$1.1 million artificial reef is scheduled for deployment at the southern end of the Tweed Coast in 2019. Regarding this development:

- (1) Has the Government consulted the local community?
  - (a) If yes, when?
  - (b) If no, why not?
- (2) Are there plans for conducting a risk assessment to ensure that any potential damage to the natural environment during deployment of the artificial reef is minimised?
  - (a) If yes, what were the findings?
  - (b) If no, when will this be done?
- (3) The artificial reef is purportedly destined for deployment near a boat ramp. How will the Government ensure that its presence is adequately signposted so as not to cause damage to passing boats?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments