



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS**

No. 131

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 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

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 122 (Including Question Nos 1759 to 1763)	19 October 2017
Q & A No. 123 (Including Question Nos 1764 to 1770)	24 October 2017
Q & A No. 124 (Including Question Nos 1771 to 1777)	25 October 2017
Q & A No. 125 (Including Question Nos 1778 to 1785)	26 October 2017
Q & A No. 126 (Including Question Nos 1786 to 1793)	14 November 2017
Q & A No. 127 (Including Question Nos 1794 to 1815)	15 November 2017
Q & A No. 128 (Including Question Nos 1816 to 1821)	16 November 2017
Q & A No. 129 (Including Question Nos 1822 to 1827)	21 November 2017
Q & A No. 130 (Including Question Nos 1828 to 1840)	22 November 2017
Q & A No. 131 (Including Question Nos 1841 to 1843)	23 November 2017

**14 SEPTEMBER 2017**

(Paper No. 122)

\*1759 PREMIER—TUMBERUMBA PLEBISCITE—Mr Primrose asked 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?

Answer—

The community of Tumbarumba is served by the newly elected Snowy Valleys Council. I encourage all residents to engage with their new council to ensure that their views on local issues are heard .

\*1760 LANDS AND FORESTRY—PRIVATE NATIVE FORESTRY LICENCES—Ms Walker asked 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.

Answer—

This is a matter for the Minister for the Environment.

\*1761 LANDS AND FORESTRY—FIREWOOD IN FORESTY HARVEST PLANS—Ms Walker asked 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?

Answer—

(1) 2014

(2) Forestry Corporation of NSW (Forestry Corporation) only records firewood produced if it is sold commercially. Commercial firewood sales are listed below in tonnes.

Year	South Coast	Eden
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2014	17,878	1,870
2015	23,111	806
2016	38,926	2,365

- (3) Forestry Corporation of NSW (Forestry Corporation) only records firewood produced if it is sold commercially. The table below lists commercial firewood sold as a percentage of total products sold.

Year	South Coast	Eden
2014	13%	0.6%
2015	18%	0.3%
2016	26%	0.9%

- (4) Yes.

- (a) Forestry Corporation of NSW (Forestry Corporation) only records firewood produced if it is sold commercially. The table below lists commercial firewood sold in tonnes and as a percentage of total products sold.

Year	Firewood Volume (t)		Firewood % of total	
	Eden	South Coast	Eden	South Coast
2002	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
2003	0	127	0.0%	0.1%
2004	306	1445	0.1%	0.8%
2005	30	4591	0.0%	2.2%
2006	0	2779	0.0%	1.3%
2007	192	9171	0.0%	3.7%
2008	0	8526	0.0%	4.7%
2009	86	14117	0.0%	8.0%
2010	159	12960	0.1%	6.2%
2011	1104	27882	0.4%	12.9%
2012	253	30414	0.1%	14.8%
2013	1148	20051	0.4%	13.8%
2014	1870	17878	0.6%	12.9%
2015	806	23111	0.3%	18.4%
2016	2365	38926	0.9%	26.0%

- \*1762 ENVIRONMENT—THREATENED SPECIES SNIFFER DOGS—Ms Walker asked 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?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Saving our Species (SoS) program has trained and used seven dogs.

- (2) Of these seven, three have been trained to detect koalas and a fourth is being trained.
- (3) No.
- (a) There are no SoS koala projects being conducted in state forests that require sniffer dogs.

\*1763 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL REEF ON THE SOUTHERN TWEED COAST—Ms Walker asked 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?

Answer—

- (1) Community consultation on planning for the Tweed Coast offshore artificial reef is scheduled to begin 19 October, 2017 and will occur in two stages. Stage one will involve targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups, including recreational fishing groups, charter businesses, commercial fishing operators and other relevant organisations and agencies, to identify a potential reef site.
- Stage 2 will involve broader community and agency consultation undertaken as part of the development of an environmental assessment for the reef. A variety of communication media will be used to provide for community feedback.
- (2) DPI will undertake a detailed environmental assessment of the proposed artificial reef, which will include assessment of the proposal's threats, risks, impacts and benefits as well as identification of appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures. Relevant legislative planning requirements under the Fisheries Management Act (1994), Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979), Crown Land Management Act (2016), Coastal Protection Act (1979) and Commonwealth Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act (1981) will be addressed in the environmental assessment. A long term management plan for the artificial reef will also be developed. Development of the environmental assessment will commence in 2018.
- (3) No navigation markers will be required for the Tweed Coast artificial reef as it will be deployed at a depth with significant safe vessel clearance. Previous reefs have been deployed by DPI with a safe vessel clearance of 20 metres, which provides ample clearance for large coastal commercial shipping and smaller vessels. Following installation of the reef, a 'Notice to Mariners' is released by the Australian Hydrographers Service to notify coastal commercial shipping of the new reefs location. Coastal marine navigation charts will also be updated with the new reef details and the reef coordinates will be made publically available on the DPI website.

### 19 OCTOBER 2017

(Paper No. 131)

1841 PREMIER—RAILCORP LAND AT DARLEY ROAD, LEICHHARDT—Ms Voltz to ask the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier—

Did the Minister have any discussions with Peter Grimshaw about the lease of Railcorp land at Darley Road, Leichhardt, during 2011 and 2012?

- 1842 VETERANS AFFAIRS—VETERAN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM—Ms Voltz to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, Minister for Trade and Industry representing the Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs—
- (1) What definition for "Veteran" is the Government using for eligibility for defence personnel to apply for the Veteran Employment Program?
  - (2) Is this definition consistent with the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs definition being a Veteran is a person who has rendered eligible war service or is a member of the Defence Forces who on or after 31 July 1962 was outside Australia, but not on operational service, who was killed or injured by the action of hostile forces?
- 1843 EMERGENCY SERVICES—BUNDEENA COAST ECO-LODGE AT 60-70 BOURNEMOUTH ST—Mr Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, Minister for Trade and Industry representing the Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services—
- (1) Is the Minister aware that Sutherland Shire Council has raised concerns that the site of the proposed Bundeena Coast Eco-Lodge at 60-70 Bournemouth St has "extreme bushfire danger"?
  - (2) Is the Minister aware that the Bundeena Rural fire Brigade has raised serious concerns about the proposed development occurring on bushfire prone land, warning of "the disastrous consequences should this development go ahead and innocent lives are unnecessarily put at risk"?
  - (3) Will the Minister ensure that the Bushfire Safety Authority issued by the Rural Fire Service for the proposed development will be revoked in order to ensure the protection of human life and property from the threat of bush fire at this location?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments