

2025-2026

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN WRITING

as at

THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

(7.30 am)

Questions unanswered

Nos 78, 83, 85-86, 109, 128, 135-143.

QUESTIONS IN WRITING

On the first sitting day of each fortnight, a complete Notice Paper is published containing all unanswered questions. On subsequent days, only new questions for the sitting are included in the Notice Paper.

28 October 2025

78 **DR HAINES:** To ask the Minister for Communications—In respect of the Minister’s statement that she requested that implementation of Temporary Disaster Roaming (TDR) be expedited in response to recent telecommunications outages (House *Hansard* [proof], 7 October 2025, page 30):

- (1) Has the simulation and stress testing foreshadowed by the Minister now occurred; if so, what were the outcomes of the simulation of TDR.
- (2) What are the remaining obstacles to the timely implementation of TDR.
- (3) What are the remaining industry concerns about the feasibility of implementing TDR in Australia.
- (4) How will these industry concerns be overcome.
- (5) What are the next steps to implement TDR in Australia.
- (6) Has the Government provided a timeline to telecommunications providers in relation to the deployment of TDR in Australia.
- (7) What is the Government’s preferred timeline for the deployment of TDR in Australia.

83 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware that Australian Bureau of Statistics’ data notes that there is a total job vacancy of approximately 327,200 across the Australian economy, and that the Australian Council of Social Services’ data has found that 190,000 Australians have been receiving unemployment payments for more than five years.
- (2) What is the Government doing to address systemic, long-term unemployment.
- (3) Noting labour shortages as arguments for immigration, what is the Government doing to ensure that 190,000 Australians on long-term unemployed benefits can transition to work.
- (4) How many long-term unemployed people have transitioned from welfare to work since 2022.

29 October 2025

85 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—In respect of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency grant of \$17.2 million which was reportedly provided to Mars Petcare in Wodonga:

- (1) What is the public benefit of this project.

- (2) What is the national benefit of this significant funding being provided to a private entity.
- (3) Was the applicant required to co-fund this project.

86 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the cost of the Government's 2035 emissions reduction targets.
- (2) Has the Department of the Treasury modelled the cost of the 2035 emissions reductions targets.
- (3) What is the direct cost to the budget of the 2035 emissions reductions targets.
- (4) Has the Department of the Treasury modelled the whole of economy cost of the 2035 emissions reductions targets; if so, what is that cost.

30 October 2025

109 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Does the Treasurer accept responsibility for inflation recording its highest quarterly rise since March 2023 in the latest quarterly data figures.
- (2) Does the Government accept the Australian Bureau of Statistics' assessment that the largest contributor to higher quarterly inflation is higher electricity costs.

24 November 2025

128 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Housing—

- (1) What is the average median house price in Australia since the Government came to office.
- (2) What is the average price increase for a home in Australia in 2025 compared to in 2022.
- (3) What is the average median rental price for a house in Australia since the Government came to office.

19 January 2026

135 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Treasurer—In respect of reports that the Government is urgently seeking departments to find savings:

- (1) What is the average staffing level that is expected to be lost across the Australian Public Service (APS).
- (2) How many staff will be made redundant.
- (3) How many contractors will not be renewed.
- (4) What is the expected annualised saving as a result of the cuts to the APS.
- (5) Can a breakdown be provided of the number of jobs that are to be axed from each department.

136 **MS STEGGALL:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware that at COP30, Australia signed the Belem Declaration pledging to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies 'as soon as possible'.
- (2) Is the Treasurer aware that Australia's Fuel Tax Credits scheme, which is an example of this, costs Australians over \$10 billion a year and largely benefits big mining companies.
- (3) Will the Treasurer, as a matter of urgency, direct the Treasury to: (a) prepare a phase-out of the Fuel Tax Credit scheme; and (b) have the saved revenue instead be invested in funding climate resilience and adaptation for our communities.

137 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—Further to the answer to question in writing No. 97, regarding funding for the Warrego Highway:

- (1) Can a breakdown be provided of the allocation for the \$470.4 million funding.
- (2) How much Commonwealth funding is allocated for the section between: (a) Toowoomba and Charleville; (b) Toowoomba and Hatton Vale; and (c) Ipswich and Hatton Vale.

20 January 2026

138 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Housing—In respect of the worsening home ownership and housing crisis in Australia:

- (1) How many residential properties in Australia are foreign-owned.
- (2) How many standalone houses are foreign-owned.

- (3) How many units, apartments, and townhouses are foreign-owned.

139 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Housing—

- (1) How many residential properties in Australia were purchased by non-citizens between 2022 and 2024.
- (2) Which state has the highest number of foreign-owned residential properties, and how many.
- (3) Which city has the highest number of foreign-owned residential properties, and how many.
- (4) How many residential properties in Queensland are foreign-owned.
- (5) Is it the policy of the Government to continue to allow foreign purchases of Australian homes at a time when Australians cannot afford them.

140 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Treasurer—In respect of foreign investment in the residential housing market:

- (1) What has been the total effect on the availability of housing supply since 2022.
- (2) What is the modelled impact on home values.
- (3) Has Treasury undertaken analysis on the impacts on price dynamics; if so, what is the impact on residential housing construction activity.

5 February 2026

141 **MR SMALL:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—In respect of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water certifying the Western Australian demersal fishery as sustainable on 31 October 2025:

- (1) When was the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry notified that the Western Australian State Government Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; and Mid West intended to ban demersal fishing.
- (2) Did the Minister make inquiries as to how the Commonwealth was satisfied that the fishery was sustainable given that 33 days later the Western Australian State Government announced it was banning the fishery.
- (3) Does the Minister stand by the Commonwealth's science or the Western Australian State Government's research.
- (4) Will the Commonwealth contribute to a compensation package for the commercial fishing businesses that have been forcibly shut down by the Western Australian State Government's decision; if not, why not.

12 February 2026

142 **MR PIKE:** To ask the Minister for Emergency Management—In respect of the impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Alfred in South-East Queensland in March 2025:

- (1) What was the total amount of Government financial assistance provided under the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment program, including: (a) the total value of payments made to recipients in Queensland; and (b) a breakdown of the total value of payments made, by local government area.
- (2) What was the total amount of Government financial assistance provided under the Disaster Recovery Allowance program, including: (a) the total value of payments made to recipients in Queensland; and (b) a breakdown of the total value of payments made, by local government area.

143 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What action has the Government undertaken in response to the report on *The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024*, since it was tabled by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport in June 2024.
- (2) Is the Minister concerned regarding the committee's finding that for people living with diabetes 'there are huge barriers to appropriate management and support, particularly in outer metropolitan, rural and regional areas', such as in the electoral division of Mayo.
- (3) Is the Minister supportive of the committee's recommendation that subsidised access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) be further expanded, including: (a) to remove barriers to access for all people with Type 1 diabetes; (b) to individuals with insulin-dependent Type 3c diabetes; (c) to people with gestational diabetes; and (d) to people with Type 2 diabetes requiring regular insulin.

- (4) Does the Government intend to expand subsidised access to CGMs as recommended, to provide patients with real-time glucose data, improve diabetes management, prevent and delay the onset of complications and reduce out-of-pocket costs for people living with diabetes in Australia.
- (5) When will the Government provide its response to the committee's recommendations as set out in the report.

CLARESSA SURTEES

Clerk of the House of Representatives
