

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Legislative Council

ASKED BY: The Hon Ruth Forrest MLC

ANSWERED BY: The Hon. Nick Duigan MLC, Member for Windermere,
Minister for Energy and Renewables

QUESTION:

(1) Please provide a breakdown of electricity generated (in GWh) by each of the 30 power stations in the fleet for:

- a. The 2025 drought year;*
- b. The 2022 above-average year; and*
- c. The 1995-1996 baseline period used to set the original REC baseline figures?*

ANSWER:

Answers for a) and b) are provided below, by calendar year.

Hydro Tasmania advises that generation at power stations can vary from year to year due to a range of operational, market and environmental factors, including water inflows, planned and unplanned outages for maintenance and refurbishment activities, generation strategy, and prevailing market and trading conditions. Accordingly, differences in generation between years do not necessarily indicate changes in asset condition or capability.

	2025 Generation (GWh)	2022 Generation (GWh)
Bastyan	232	273
Bell Bay Three - FT8s	3	8
Bell Bay Three - Trent	79	83
Butlers Gorge	61	65
Catagunya / Liapootah / Wayatinah (combined dispatch unit)	822	760
Cethana	282	352
Cluny	81	74
Devils Gate	199	260
Fisher	172	243
Gordon	855	1635

John Butters	533	356
Lake Echo	78	8
Lemonthyme / Wilmot (combined dispatch unit)	269	367
Mackintosh	220	270
Meadowbank	140	152
Paloona	89	117
Poatina 110	387	456
Poatina 220	529	812
Reece 1	497	329
Reece 2	153	405
Repulse	130	118
Rowallan	23	27
Tamar Valley CCGT	72	0
Tarraleah	463	496
Trevallyn	259	509
Tribute	219	189
Tungatinah	411	412

With regard to c), the baselines are all published in the REC Registry here:

<https://www.rec-registry.gov.au/rec-registry/app/public/power-station-register>

QUESTION:

(2) Are there any power stations in the fleet where generation output has declined materially relative to historical averages for hydrological reasons that are comparable, and if so, is this attributable to asset condition rather than inflows?

ANSWER:

Hydro Tasmania advises its hydrology and generation have seen increases in volatility (higher highs and lower lows) across the portfolio rather than a significant decline in average inflows. This is correlated across storages.

The only stations where asset condition has significantly impacted production on a sustained and ongoing basis are Tarraleah and Lake Margaret, which are also Hydro Tasmania's oldest power stations. As a result, the business is considering redevelopment and/or refurbishment options for these stations.

QUESTION:

(3) Following the transformer fire at Reece power station, what full independent review of transformer condition across the Hydro Tasmania generation fleet was undertaken:

- (a) What were the findings, and*
- (b) what remediation actions have been completed or are planned?*

ANSWER:

Hydro Tasmania advises that transformer condition assessment and replacement is a long standing and continuous program of work.

The transformer replacement and midlife refurbishment program was recently updated, with the funding allocated as part of the Corporate Plan capital investment settings.

Hydro Tasmania has 55 transformers installed within its Hydro generation fleet.

Over the next 5 to 7 years, 12 of these transformers are targeted for replacement, based on current useful life assessments.

The Reece transformer was replaced with a strategic spare transformer (owned by Hydro Tasmania), and the Reece station is back in service.

QUESTION:

- (4a) Has Hydro Tasmania engaged any external engineering assessment of the overall condition of its generation fleet in the past five years; and*
- (4b) if so, what were the key findings of that assessment regarding life expectancy of critical components including turbines, stators, transformers and penstocks?*

ANSWER:

Hydro Tasmania frequently utilises external advice and Entura to assist with condition assessment of assets within the generation fleet.

This is usually done at an asset or station level, not an overall assessment of the fleet.

QUESTION:

(5a) How many transformers across the Hydro generation fleet have been assessed as requiring replacement or significant refurbishment;

(5b) what is the estimated capital cost; and

(5c) what is the estimated timeline for that work?

ANSWER:

Hydro Tasmania has 55 transformers installed within its Hydro generation fleet.

Over the next 5 to 7 years, 12 of these transformers are targeted for replacement, based on current useful life assessments.

This funding is included within existing capital expenditure forecasts at an estimated cost, on average, of \$7.5m each transformer (based on current prices).

QUESTION:

(6) Please provide a breakdown by power station of the number of generating units across the fleet that are currently offline for:

- (a) Maintenance;*
- (b) Refurbishment; and/or*
- (c) Unplanned reasons?*

ANSWER:

Most of Hydro Tasmania's maintenance is a daily activity and thus changes day-to-day. In accordance with the National Electricity Rules, all outages are publicly shown on the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO's) website in the market data section under the Projected Assessment of System Adequacy (PASA).

Outages of significance at the time of writing are the Poatina station outage (for painting of its penstock) which is a planned maintenance activity, as well as Poatina #2, Gordon #2 and Lemonthyme refurbishments.

There is also an outage on Tarraleah #4, although the constraint on the canals is currently more impactful than the machine outage.

The FT8 gas turbines are also undergoing significant maintenance with several machines offline pending return of turbines from overhauls in the USA.

Lake Margaret has machines 1, 6 and 7 out of service.

In total, 16 units are offline, out of a total of 65, which includes mini hydro units but excludes micro hydro and Bass Strait Island units.

QUESTION:

(7) Regarding the Gordon Number 2 major refurbishment:

- (a) what was the original expected completion date; and*
- (b) if the works continue or continued beyond that date:*
 - (i) when was it, or is expected to be completed; and*
 - (ii) what was the original budget and the total cost to date or completion?*

ANSWER:

Gordon Number 2

- (a) January 2025
- (b) (i) December 2026
- (b) (ii) \$44.69m, approved variation by the Hydro Tasmania board to raise to \$66.96m, costs to date \$51.61m.

Hydro Tasmania has advised that additional complexity encountered during disassembly and reassembly was a key driver of budget increase for Gordon #2. This complexity arose from the condition of certain components, which were found to be more degraded than anticipated due to age-related deterioration specific to this 1970s-era hydroelectric technology. Such issues are an inherent risk in brownfield refurbishment projects, where some machine components are only dismantled and inspected every 20 to 40 years.

Hydro Tasmania also experienced significant challenges with the quality of some components supplied from Europe. As a result, the business relied on its internal engineering and technical expertise to source, manufacture and machine critical replacement parts. These issues contributed to both the increased project costs and the extended outage duration.

QUESTION:

(8) Regarding the following refurbishments to Poatina 2 machine, Lemonthyme, recently completed in the past 5 years are Poatina 3, Rowallan, Lake Echo, Trevallyn 1 and 2, Wilmot, for each, please advise:

- (a) what was the original expected completion date; and*

- (i) *when were the works completed; and*
- (b) *what was the original budget; and*
 - (i) *what was the total cost to date or completion?*

ANSWER:

Hydro Tasmania advises that for all completion dates and estimated durations, projects are often moved around in its capital plan to give flexibility for its generation and trading strategies. This refers to both adjusting start date (either bringing forward or delaying) and strategically reprioritising site effort to other outages, resulting in an extended outage duration.

Where a duration has extended it does not always mean additional site effort is required, on occasions site effort can be paused until Hydro Tasmania returns to the implementation.

Please find details of all refurbishments requested below, as provided by Hydro Tasmania:

Poatina 2

Original expected completion date: December 2025 (estimated duration 10 months)

Actual completion date: ongoing, expected completion April 2027 (would be a duration of 12 months due to later commencement of the works)

Original budget: \$27.12m

Costs to date: 13.51m

Lemonthyme

Original expected completion date: July 2026 (estimated duration: 9 months)

Actual completion date: ongoing, expected completion September 2026 (would be a duration of 10 months)

Original budget: \$62.52m

Costs to date: \$58.55m

Poatina 3

Original expected completion date: January 2025 (estimated duration: 11 months)

Actual completion date: February 2026 (actual duration: 22 months)

Original budget: \$35.98m

Cost at completion: \$34.49m

Lake Echo

Original expected completion date: 15 January 2022 (estimated duration: 9 months)

Actual completion date: August 2022 (duration of 17 months)

Original budget: \$34.24m

Actual costs: \$32.93m

Trevallyn 1

Original expected completion date: December 2021 (estimated duration: 10 months)

Actual completion date: September 2022 (duration of approximately 19 months)

Original budget: \$17.56m, budget varied by \$1.44m to approve \$19m

Actual costs: \$16.84m

Trevallyn 2

Original expected completion date: September 2020 (estimated duration: 9 months)

Actual completion date: June 2021 (duration of approximately 15 months)

Original budget: \$18.9m

Actual costs: \$17.80m

Wilmot

Original expected completion date: June 2020 (estimated duration: 9 months)

Actual completion date: September 2020 (duration of approximately 12 months)

Original budget: \$33.36m

Actual costs: \$25.26m

QUESTION:

(9) Please provide a breakdown by power station of number of generating units across the fleet that are currently offline and indicate the expected return-to-service date for each.

ANSWER:

Outages of significance at the time of writing are Poatina station outage (for painting of its penstock) which is a planned maintenance activity, as well as Poatina #2, Gordon #2 and Lemonthyme refurbishments. Further detail is noted in response to Question 6.

QUESTION:

(10a) What is the total capital expenditure budget allocated for asset maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of generation assets in the 2026–27 financial year; and
(10b) how does this compare to the previous two financial years?

ANSWER:

- a) The capital budget for generation assets (and related assets) FY2026-27 is \$200m.
- b) The budget for FY2025-26 was \$172.8m and the budget for FY2024-25 was \$154.1m.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables

Date: 19th August 2026