



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 86
Answered on 6th March, 2026
Fourth Meeting 2025-2026 Session – Third Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

MR. DWAYNE SEYMOUR
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF
BODDEN TOWN EAST

TO

HON. KATHERINE EBANKS-WILKS
MINISTER OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister say, when will the Sargassum Plan be unveiled to the public and will staff be employed?

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker, at this time the Government does not yet have a formally **approved** National Sargassum Management Plan in place.

However, for several years a number of Government departments have been working together to manage periodic sargassum influxes and to provide guidance to private landowners regarding the removal of accumulated material from their properties.

What currently exists, Mister Speaker, are response protocols, however what we need is a proactive approach.

These existing protocols focus on coordination and management once sargassum reaches the shoreline, including advising property owners on appropriate handling and removal. As a result, the protocol does not presently address management of sargassum offshore **before** it lands on our shores.

Mister Speaker, the direction I wish to see moving forward is a more **comprehensive and proactive** strategy. Addressing sargassum only after it reaches the shore can create secondary

impacts. Mechanical or improper removal can disturb beach profiles and interfere with marine life, including turtle nesting activity.

Additionally, sargassum contains heavy metals that, when collected and piled in one area, can leach into the soil, water table, or marine environment. This creates a serious public and environmental risks. At present, we do not have adequate storage facilities to safely process or dispose of large or extreme influxes of sargassum.

For this reason, Mister Speaker, prevention and early intervention measures must form part of the broader national response. Accordingly, we are examining options that include management approaches before sargassum reaches the shoreline.

With respect to staffing, the **current** protocols are structured around coordination of existing Government entities and resources.