

CLIMATE CHANGE — MITIGATION PROGRAM FUNDING

6405. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

I refer to the ‘consumers of available funding’ outlined by Department of Environment and Conservation’s Director General on 1 June 2012 in relation to climate change, i.e. the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative (IOCI) and the Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund, and I ask —

- (1) Is there funding for these programs in the 2012–2013 Budget?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the Minister provide details of that funding?
- (3) Is there funding for these programs in the out years?
- (4) If yes to (3), can the Minister provide details of that funding?
- (5) If there is no funding for these programs in the 2012–2013 Budget, can the Minister explain, in relation to IOCI, why improved understanding of the implications of global climate models for Western Australia, to help us effectively plan adaptation, is no longer important?
- (6) In relation to the LEED Fund, will the Minister clarify whether the Government continues to support new, efficient energy sources that are well suited to Western Australian circumstances and how this support is to be demonstrated?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) The 2012–13 budget includes an allocation for the Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund. Stage 3 of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative (IOCI) was completed in June 2012 and therefore there is no allocation in 2012–13.
- (2) The LEED fund is allocated \$11.993 million in 2012–13, for grants and one FTE to administer the program.
- (3)–(4) There are allocations to the LEED fund of \$9.275 million for 2013–14 and \$2.3 million for 2014–15. There are no allocations for IOCI.
- (5) The IOCI program has substantially improved knowledge of Western Australia’s climate and, in particular, understanding of impacts at a more localised level. The recently concluded Stage 3 of IOCI will continue to deliver benefits for many years to come.
- (6) The Government continues to support the development of new low emissions energy sources. Circumstances have changed since the LEED fund was introduced in 2007. There are new factors supporting technological development that were not present at that time, including the Commonwealth’s carbon price and enhanced renewable energy target, and its Clean Energy Future Fund.