

RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET

**505. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:**

Given that the Minister for Energy now rejects the views of the Institute of Public Affairs and accepts the science of human-induced climate change, I ask —

- (1) Will Western Australia meet our obligation to produce 20 per cent of electricity from renewable resources by 2020 without resorting to buying renewable energy certificates from interstate renewable energy projects?
- (2) Does the minister support Labor's policy of 50 per cent of electricity being produced from renewable energy by 2030; if not, why not; and what is the minister's post-2020 renewable energy target?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The federal government's Large-scale Renewable Energy Target imposes an obligation on large users of electricity and electricity retailers to secure renewable energy certificates in sufficient quantity to meet obligations under the regulatory scheme or, alternatively, to pay a penalty. This obligation applies to Synergy and Horizon Power, as well as to private sector electricity users and retailers in Western Australia. Synergy and Horizon Power may meet their obligations under the regulatory scheme by generating renewable energy itself and thus producing renewable energy certificates internally within the business, or procuring renewable energy certificates from other generators of renewable energy within Western Australia or in other Australian jurisdictions. The options used by each of these businesses to meet its obligations are, in the first instance, commercial matters for each business to meet those obligations at the lowest cost, and therefore with the least potential impact on electricity prices.
- (2) No. There is no supporting information to indicate that the Labor target has been properly informed by consideration of technical feasibility, consequences on electricity prices, impact on systems security and reliability, economic and social impacts, and environmental benefits. The Liberal–National government's policy on renewable energy will be released in due course.