

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY — GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS —
BRIEFING NOTES

724. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the answer to question without notice 677 that I asked on Tuesday, 25 June 2019, and my question yesterday on whether the Premier's office received a briefing note on the Environmental Protection Authority guideline proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

- (1) After the 7 March 2019 announcement of the proposed greenhouse gas guidelines, did the Premier's principal policy adviser, Mr Dave Coggin, inform the Premier, the Premier's chief of staff or any other staff member of his office, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet or the Department of State Development, that he had received a briefing note on the proposed guidelines on 27 February 2019?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) After the announcement of 7 March 2019, what information did the Premier, any of his staff or any staff from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet or the Department of State Development seek from the EPA or the Minister for Environment, and did this include the briefing note?
- (4) Given the significance of the proposal on the gas industry in Western Australia and the apparent failure of Mr Coggin to alert anybody in the Premier's office or the Department of State Development of the risks, what steps has the Premier taken to improve the poor performance of his office?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The Premier's principal policy adviser understood that the briefing note on the proposed guidelines, received a week and a half previously, was no longer current.
- (3) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet requested a copy of briefing note DWERME572/19 from the Minister for Environment's office on Wednesday, 19 June 2019, in order to answer a parliamentary question.
- (4) The Premier's principal policy adviser acted entirely appropriately by not distributing an old briefing note that was outdated by the time of the announcement.