

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY — LOCAL GOVERNMENT

718. Hon TIM CLIFFORD to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the recent target by the City of Bayswater for 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040, and to community expectations that the state government act on the issue of climate change.

- (1) How will the state government support local councils taking the lead on climate change action, amid a state policy void and inadequate action at a federal level?
- (2) What resources or support will the state government provide to assist local councils in meeting these targets?
- (3) Will the minister extend congratulations to the City of Bayswater for its leadership and action on climate change?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The state government is working collaboratively with local government to understand climate change actions at the local level, including an agreement with local government through the State Local Government Partnership Agreement, which was signed in August 2017. A new state climate policy is being developed in collaboration with state government agencies and government trading organisations. The policy is due to be finalised in early 2020.
- (2) As the state climate change policy develops, it will provide an opportunity to identify the resources to support local government in its climate change efforts. An example of this is the “Climate Resilient Councils: Preparing for impacts of climate change” grants recently funded by the federal Natural Disaster Resilience program. This project is aimed at assisting local governments to strengthen their organisational governance arrangements for climate resilience planning and decision-making around the potential for increased incidence and severity of natural disasters related to climate change. This is a collaborative project between the Western Australian Local Government Association, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.
- (3) Yes, I congratulate the City of Bayswater for its leadership and action on climate change. The local government sector has an endorsed policy position on climate change that demonstrates its acknowledgement of the impacts of climate change and its commitment to working with government to develop locally appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.