

COAL-FIRED GENERATION PROJECTS — CARBON EMISSIONS

3805. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Energy

I refer the Minister to a recent Environmental Protection Authority report (Report 1358, May 2010, found at <http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/1358/Rep1358PerdamanPER10510.pdf>) which notes that projects, comprising significant coal-fired generation projects, could add more than 20 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to Western Australia's current emissions of 76.3 MTPA. In addition, projects currently being assessed could add a further 36 MTPA. Given that this will potentially increase Western Australian emissions by 75% over the next few years, could the Minister outline how the objectives of the Strategic Energy Initiative, namely, minimising carbon emissions and sound environmental stewardship, can be reconciled with this likely scenario; and

(a) if not, why not?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

The Government's Strategic Energy Initiative, Energy 2031, is about working with industry and the community to develop an ambitious and practical plan that aims to meet the State's energy needs over the next 20 years. Energy2031 adopts a multi-faceted approach towards delivery of the strategic goals of providing secure, reliable, competitive and cleaner energy for Western Australia.

In the future, a broad mix of electricity generation can be expected, including from lower carbon-intensive sources. The Strategic Energy Initiative will serve to establish the framework within which that can occur. The Strategic Energy Initiative will also include a strong focus on improving energy efficiency within Western Australia to reduce the scale of generation capacity required to sustain future growth of the economy..