

CLIMATE CHANGE

Statement by Member for Kingsley

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [12.53 pm]: I stand here today utterly appalled that while droughts become more commonplace, temperature records are regularly broken and the ice caps continue to melt, political and world leaders are still arguing about whether climate change is real. Worse than that, world leaders are so consumed with that argument that children are the ones who are mobilising and demanding action. Instead of supporting these children, who are rightly concerned about the world they will inherit, many in our society are vilifying, ridiculing and bullying them. These children are showing more leadership than many world leaders on this issue, including our own Prime Minister.

I had hoped that after the federal election this year we would have seen some national leadership on this issue. Unfortunately, it is clear that the Morrison Liberal government is determined to stick its head in the sand, even as the rivers dry and farmland turns to dust around them. As a legislator, I am proud that the McGowan government recognises the need to adapt to the current and projected climate impacts and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to protect our environment, economy and community. I am proud that Minister Dawson recently announced the release of the climate change issues paper. This paper is available online for public comment, and I strongly encourage my constituents to have their say. As a mother, I am proud of these children who are bright enough to learn the facts, kind enough to want a cleaner and greener future and brave enough to stand up for themselves. To those who continue to sneer and belittle them, I warn you: if you mess with our kids, you mess with every mum in the world, and that is not a fight you can win.