

ENVIRONMENT — GREENHOUSE GAS CONDITIONS — CHEVRON PROJECTS

3444. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Further to media reports (“Reprieve for big polluters”, the West Australian, January 2, 2015) can the Minister explain why greenhouse gas conditions remain on Chevron’s Gorgon project but the Government has waived them on Chevron’s Wheatstone project?
- (2) How many projects in Western Australia have greenhouse gas conditions and what projects are they?
- (3) Does the Minister intend to remove greenhouse gas conditions on other projects in Western Australia?
- (4) If no, why has Chevron received a special exemption?
- (5) Has the Minister met with Chevron since becoming Minister and on what occasions?
- (6) Who was present at each meeting?
- (7) Were greenhouse issues, or the conditions that apply to the Wheatstone project, discussed at any of those meetings?
- (8) What is the likely contribution of the Wheatstone project to Western Australia’s total emissions profile (percentage and tonnes)?
- (9) Can the Minister explain the State Government’s role, if any, in how these emissions will be addressed by the Federal Government’s ‘Direct Action’ program?
- (10) Has the Minister sought advice from his Department as to how the ‘Direct Action’ program will apply to or mitigate Chevron’s Wheatstone emissions and if not, why not?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

- (1) Most greenhouse gas conditions were removed from Chevron’s Wheatstone project because the company requested that the conditions be removed in light of a complementarity clause in the conditions. This complementarity clause provided for the Minister for Environment to determine that the greenhouse gas conditions would no longer apply if it was found they were non-complementary to any Commonwealth legislation which regulated greenhouse gas emissions.
- (2) Thirty nine projects have greenhouse gas conditions set under part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Coal-Fired Base Load Power Station, Collie

Pinjar Gas Turbine Power Station

Cawse Nickel Project

Yakabindie Nickel Project

Murrin Murrin Nickel-Cobalt Project

Rare Earths Mining and Beneficiation, Mount Weld

Wagoo Hills Vanadium Project and Mingenew Coal Project

North West Shelf Gas Project

Hope Downs Iron Ore Mine

Technical Ammonia Plant, Burrup

Telfer Gold Project

Commercial Hismelt Plant, Kwinana

Ammonia-Urea Plant, Burrup

Pinjarra Cogeneration Project

Ravensthorpe Nickel Project

Iron Ore Mine Downstream Processing Direct-Reduced Hot-Briquetted Iron and Port Construction, Cape Preston

Kemerton Power Station

Pinjarra Alumina Refinery

Perth Metropolitan Desalination Proposal

Bluewaters Power Station Stages I and II
Gas-Fired Co-Generation Facility, Worsley
Kwinana Gas-Fired Power Station
Pilbara Iron Ore Infrastructure Project: East-West Railway Mine Sites Stage B
Argyle Diamond Mine, Underground Project
Worsley Alumina Refinery
Wagerup Cogeneration Project
Pluto Liquified Natural Gas Development
330 MW gas-fired power station, Wanneroo
Southern Seawater Desalination Project
Devil Creek Gas Development Project
Gorgon Gas Project
Silicon Mine Project, Kemerton
Balmoral South Iron Ore Project
Bluewaters Power Station Stages III and IV
Coolimba Power Station Project
Collie Urea Project
Macedon Gas Development
Wheatstone Gas Development
Ammonium Nitrate Plant, Kwinana

(3) No. However, I will consider any request made by a proponent to amend or remove greenhouse gas conditions. Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, I cannot change a condition of approval without first receiving the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

(4) See the answer to question (1).

(5) I have met with Chevron Pty Ltd on 23 July 2013 and 5 March 2014.

(6) **23 July 2013**

Hon Mike Nahan MLA (Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests)

Ms Tamatha Smith (Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Environment; Heritage)

Mr Simon Helm (Chief of Staff, Office of the Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests)

Mr Jim Sharp (Director General, Department of Parks and Wildlife)

Mr Ash Raj (Policy Adviser, Office of the Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests)

Mr Colin Beckett (Greater Gorgon Development General Manager, Chevron Pty Ltd)

Russell Lagdon (Senior Environmental Consultant, Chevron Pty Ltd)

Amy Ruddock (Government Affairs Adviser, Chevron Pty Ltd)

5 March 2014

Ms Tamatha Smith (Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Environment; Heritage)

Ms Belinda Walker (Policy Adviser, Office of the Minister for Environment; Heritage)

Dr Roy Green (Quarantine Expert Panel Chair, Gorgon Project)

Mr Stuart Fields (Construction and Dredging Environmental Expert Panel Chair, Gorgon Project)

Mr Simon Woodley (Marine Turtle Expert Panel, Gorgon Project)

(7) Yes

- (8) At full development of 25 million tonnes per annum production of LNG, GHG emissions from the Wheatstone Project are projected to be around 10Mt CO₂-e per year. As part of national greenhouse gas emissions accounts, Western Australia's emissions were estimated to be 70.5Mt of CO₂-e in 2011–12. Therefore emissions from the Wheatstone Project would constitute approximately 14 percent of total State emissions in 2011–12.
- (9) The Federal Government's Direct Action Plan is largely given effect through the *Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Act 2014* (Cth) which was assented to on 25 November 2014. This Act establishes the crediting and purchasing elements of the Emissions Reduction Fund, and introduces a framework for the development of a safeguard mechanism which will be introduced from 1 July 2016. As this is Commonwealth legislation, the State Government has no role in its application or operation.
- (10) See the answer to question (9).