

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION BILL 2021

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Dr Brad Pettitt**, and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON DR BRAD PETTITT (South Metropolitan) [10.11 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am very pleased to introduce the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Bill 2021. This climate bill is clearly focused on action this decade. It is a pragmatic bill that puts forward the kinds of actions Western Australia should be taking if we are going to play our fair part in creating a safe climate for our kids and grandkids, based on what the climate science is unequivocally telling us. The bill is designed to give certainty to industries and businesses that want to embrace the necessary low-carbon transition that lies ahead. It is a bill that will enable WA to best benefit from the wave of clean energy investment that will accompany the transition to net zero emissions. Importantly, this is not a bill that is focused on an abstract net zero target 20 or 30 years from now; it is a bill explicitly focused on emissions reduction action and the associated opportunities of this decade. It is a bill focused on opportunities to reduce WA's high emissions, to create jobs in clean energy and to reduce living costs for Western Australians. It is a bill focused on the urgency of reducing emissions, investing in renewable energy at scale and creating science-based energy policy—all vital in this decade.

This bill is the result of a climate expert advisory group that has been meeting regularly to advise me on the contents and targets contained within the bill. As a result of their extraordinary expertise, it is a bill that is pragmatic, based on the latest science and evidence, and completely achievable for WA. I want to thank each of these experts. Each of them freely gave of their time because they care about this state and the state of the planet. Thanks to Professor Bill Hare from Climate Analytics at Murdoch University, who is also an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change author; Professor Peter Newman from Curtin University, another IPCC author; Professor Petra Tschakert from the University of Western Australia, another IPCC author; Dr Jatin Kala from Murdoch University, another IPCC author; Chantal Caruso, formerly from Clean State; Tamara Smith from 360 Environmental; Dr Martin Anda from Murdoch University; Dr Hugh Finn from Curtin University; Dr Bradley Hiller from the Asian Development Bank; Larissa Taylor, an agriculture and climate adviser; and Meri Fatin from WA Climate Leaders, who facilitated this amazing group of people. As members know, this is the cream of the crop in climate expertise in this state. As a result, this is not just a Greens bill; it is, instead, a bill that aims to reach across the political aisle to become legislation that all parties can support. It is a bill based on science and evidence, with a clear understanding of the particular greenhouse gas—emission reduction challenges that WA faces. It is a bill that is pragmatic and doable for Western Australia.

The bill will do a number of things. Firstly, it will set out targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the increase in renewable energy generation. Setting hard, legislated targets will not only ensure WA makes a fair contribution towards reducing emissions, but also give our state the best opportunity to attract the huge wave of green energy investment that is underway globally. More specifically, the bill will legislate an interim emissions reduction target of 50 per cent by 2030 to accelerate the net zero transition. It will also legislate renewable energy generation targets of 50 per cent by 2025, and 90 per cent by 2030. Central to the bill is a Just Transition Plan for affected workers and communities. Bold climate action done well must protect the welfare of the most impacted individuals and communities.

Finally, the bill will establish an independent expert climate council to provide policy and scientific advice to meet the bill's targets. As a whole, this bill is about our future and the future of our loved ones. It is about the world our generation will leave to those who come after us. It is about protecting both our environment and our economic future. This bill will allow us to embrace the economic opportunities that a low carbon transition will create for Western Australia. We are well placed to be a clean energy superpower, if we get this right. The climate crisis extends beyond politics and this bill reaches across the political divide, and I hope it includes elements we can all agree on. Therefore, I urge all members to consider this bill as the first step towards multi-partisan action on climate change that is desperately needed in this decade.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government of the state is a party; nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

I commend the bill to the house and I table the explanatory memorandum.

[See paper [793](#).]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

