

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS — ENERGY EFFICIENCY MANDATORY DISCLOSURE

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.56 pm]: I rise to offer my support for the introduction of the requirement for residential building mandatory disclosure. This is a system whereby existing properties that are to be sold or let must be given an energy efficiency rating. Just as our domestic appliances come with an easy-to-understand star rating, so too should residential buildings.

The Barnett government is failing to take any action to reduce WA's greenhouse gas emissions. I cite three examples of the government's failure: the government's abandoning of the renewable energy feed-in tariff; its abandoning of the Sustainable Energy Development Office; and the recommissioning of the heavy-polluting 40-year-old Muja A and B coal-fired power station. It makes a refreshing change that, in addition to major initiatives, such as the introduction of carbon pricing by the federal government, the Council of Australian Governments' National Framework for Energy Efficiency brings mandatory disclosure into effect. Consultation on the mandatory disclosure regulatory impact statement is taking place. Qualified energy assessors and home energy auditors will refine the nature of the detailed information about a residential building to be included in any rating system.

I am concerned that finalisation of the RIS may not be until early next year and that advice to the WA government may not occur until March 2012. I note the extensive use of mandatory disclosure in the European Union and in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere in the world. The Allen Consulting Group is studying the various costs and benefits and finds that they will contribute a lot to householders.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 to 2.00 pm