

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS — REDUCTION STRATEGY

5309. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment

- (1) The Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement for Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions No. 12 of 2002 was due to be updated in 2007. Is the Minister aware of the status of the update?
- (2) Is the minimising of greenhouse gas emissions in Western Australia a goal of the Western Australian Government?
- (3) Does the Minister agree that minimising greenhouse gas emissions through the best available technologies and methods is critical at a time when Western Australia's greenhouse gas emissions from new industries and new energy generation are likely to increase by up to 75 per cent?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

- (1) In July 2010 the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) decided to put the review of Guidance Statement No 12 on hold, and the then Minister was informed at that time. This decision was made in light of the uncertainty surrounding the national policy context in the area of greenhouse gas mitigation. I have not been advised of any advancement of the review.
- (2) The State Government acknowledges the importance of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and supports measures to reduce Australia's emissions.

The primary responsibility for emissions reduction policies and instruments rests with the Australian Government, which must design measures to meet Australia's international commitments and consider our role in a global context. Greenhouse gas emission reduction in Western Australia should come under a national response where abatement is achieved in a cost effective manner. A nationally coordinated, rather than individual state or territory response to mitigation, will assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the most efficient and economically responsible manner across Australia.

- (3) In line with Guidance Statement No 12, the EPA requires proponents to apply best practice to project proposals to maximise energy efficiency and minimise emissions. The EPA considers greenhouse gas emissions on a project by project basis and makes recommendations to the Minister. In the absence of overarching national policy or revised EPA guidance, this requirement continues to apply.

The State Government continues to support the development of low emissions technologies that contribute to reducing Western Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. The Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund is designed to support the development and commercialisation of new low emission technology and the development of renewable energy supplies. The LEED Fund supports the technological development required to cut emissions from the energy sector and contributes to the national target of 20% renewable energy by 2020. On 18 May 2011, the Government called for submissions for the 4th round of the Low Emissions Energy Development Fund.