

CLIMATE CHANGE

658. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to two recent ministerial jurisdictional level climate change meetings focused on actions that can be taken at the state and territory level that the minister was invited to but declined to attend.

- (1) During his time as minister, what has been the Western Australian government's greatest greenhouse gas emission reduction measure; and, as a percentage how much has this measure reduced WA's emissions?
- (2) Why did the minister not accept the offer to be briefed by Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Adelaide on 4 May?
- (3) Why did the minister decline and fail to even send a WA government representative to meet with former United States Vice-President Al Gore in Melbourne on 27 July?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

- (1)–(3) There was also a trip to Paris in the offering in that one as well! I did turn down the opportunity. I have never been to Paris; it would have been a nice one to go and visit, I am sure. Member for Gosnells, at whose invitation was that particular forum?

Mr C.J. Tallentire: The Al Gore meeting?

Mr A.P. JACOB: No, the forum the member is referring to—the two meetings —

Mr C.J. Tallentire: The Christiana Figueres meeting? There were two, minister, and you declined both! You were refusing to go to these meetings.

The SPEAKER: Sorry; just hold it. There is a question, I want an answer; I do not want a debate.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The instigation for these meetings was this body that exists internationally and is made up of a range of subnational sovereign states, if you will, from around the world. The only member state at this stage in Australia that I am aware of is South Australia, and indeed the South Australian minister has been quite passionate in his advocacy of this role. I believe he has been to a number of these conferences both domestically and internationally, and I wish him well in pursuing that. However, this government's position in regards to the policy carve-up, if you like, on climate change more generally is that the responsibility for mitigation—given that climate change is a global challenge and even Australia's emissions as a whole sit at less than two per cent of global emissions—or any tackling of this issue needs to be done through national governments, through recognised international bodies, and I support the federal government in pursuing that. The state government has a very clear role in climate change. This state government, under my predecessor, Minister Marmion, released a climate change strategy that clearly maps out the adaption responsibilities for the states over the coming decades and beyond. A range of work is being done not only within the environment portfolio, which has carriage of that policy, but also within the planning portfolio and the water portfolio. There is an across-government —

Mr C.J. Tallentire: I asked about your portfolio, minister! What are you doing? You are refusing to answer.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the first time. Have you finished that answer?

Mr A.P. JACOB: Not quite. I wish to say that a range of actions are being taken right across government, including a range of actions in direct response from my own portfolio such as the low emissions energy development fund, which has been administered through the Department of Environment Regulation and the Minister for Energy.