

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AND TRANSPORT BILL — DRAFT

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [12.09 pm]: I would like to inform the house that I have approved the drafting of the greenhouse gas storage and transport bill. The bill will provide Western Australia's resources sector with further investment and regulatory certainty as it transitions to a low-carbon future. It aims to provide WA's mining, LNG and natural gas industries with access to opportunities to decarbonise, such as mineral carbonation and carbon capture, utilisation and storage. There will be broad consultation with the resources industry and the WA community on any proposed legislative amendments before the bill is finalised. The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia are already supportive of this reform. Decarbonising WA's resources sector and developing a legislative framework to support these goals is essential to the growth and economic diversification of our state.

The McGowan government is committed to mitigating climate change and working with all sectors of the WA economy to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The bill follows the McGowan government's *Western Australian climate policy: A plan to position Western Australia for a prosperous and resilient low-carbon future* and the greenhouse gas emissions policy for major projects, and is one of a number of options that the McGowan government is exploring to deal with climate change. We are working hard to ensure that the proposed technologies are safe and secure. The geological storage of greenhouse gases will not by itself solve our climate challenge, but it is an important tool in our toolkit. By providing regulatory certainty in this area, we can reduce emissions and give businesses confidence to invest, grow the economy and create jobs for Western Australians.