

CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FUND

1592. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Climate Action:

I refer to the Clean Energy Future Fund (CEFF) which was announced in April 2020 with a budget of \$19 million to fund “innovative clean energy projects in Western Australia which offer high public value”, and I ask:

- (a) has the CEFF been discontinued;
- (b) if yes to (a), does the Cook Government have any plans to replace the CEFF;
- (c) if no to (a), why not;
- (d) why has only \$13.9 million of the \$19 million CEFF been expended; and
- (e) will the Cook Government commit to investing the remainder of the earmarked \$19 million in projects that align with the original intentions of the CEFF?

Hon Darren West replied:

- (a)–(e) The CEFF has not been discontinued. CEFF has successfully run two grant rounds and awarded funds to nine innovative projects. One project has recently withdrawn prior to commencement, leaving eight projects that are now underway, with a total of \$11.9 million allocated to these projects. The project that was withdrawn, at the request of the applicant Strike Energy, did not receive any CEFF funding.

The CEFF program uses a rigorous grant assessment process to ensure grants are only awarded to projects of high public value, where the innovative technologies being employed have a good chance of success. This process means there may be some time between announcement of grant rounds but ensures only high-quality projects receive funding.

After accounting for grant administration costs, approximately \$6.7 million will be made available for grants through CEFF Round Three, when it opens later in this financial year. Round Three is anticipated to complete allocation of all remaining CEFF funds.