

**CLIMATE CHANGE — LEGISLATION**

*Statement*

**HON DR BRAD PETTITT (South Metropolitan)** [6.25 pm]: Yesterday I asked a question in this place about the new climate change legislation and I got an interesting answer. I asked whether the government would extend the four-week consultation period for the climate change legislation, which ended yesterday, and got a “non-answer” to be quite frank. The answer just restated that the government has announced its intention to introduce the legislation and will deliver on the targets.

Last night, I went home thinking that that was a bit of a shame because one of the points I was trying to make is that there was no way for an average person to make a submission on that legislation unless they already had the link. The answer that was given to me yesterday was not accurate in that regard because the information could not be found. Anyway, I will focus on the good news. Once I got home I noticed that a constituent had sent me an email saying that they had just tried to make a submission and had discovered that the consultation period did not close yesterday as they had imagined, but would remain open until 31 May 2024. I checked and it is correct. The period has been extended, weirdly, to 31 May 2024. There is still no media release on the fact that the climate change legislation is out for public comment. There is still no way to access it, but, weirdly, the consultation period has been extended from four weeks to something like eight months, which is a little bit odd. It was probably more than I was hoping for, but I am glad that when I asked questions about it and when the community gave feedback saying that it would like more time, that the government clearly listened, so thank you. However, can we do this properly and provide people with an email address?

I love the government’s media statements. They are very varied. Today’s statements were headed “State Government announces free public transport for Telethon Family Festival” and “1,000th Government-owned home goes waterwise”—all good things. Perhaps we could have a government media announcement telling people how to make a submission on the climate legislation. We will be going through this process for the next six or so months, so it actually would be worthy of a media statement. I am not saying that those other things are not worthy as well, but it is a little bit odd that we announce the very small but not the very big climate legislation.

I stand because I have asked the question. If I ask questions without notice, I get answers that have been smoothed over, but it was interesting to see that that information flows through. I ask the government to use the next six months to do a proper consultation with our community on what climate legislation we require. I strongly suspect that the government will hear very loudly from the community that it would love to have a 2030 target, not a 2035 and beyond target, which is where it currently sits. There are some really great lines on the government’s website about needing strong action in this decade and deep cuts, but that cannot be done if the first target is not until 2035.

Now that we have extended the consultation period, I hope that this legislation will come forward in this term of government and in a way that is more robust and aligned with the climate science. It has been a little win for the community and for the many stakeholders who put together a letter to the government earlier this week asking for an extension. Perhaps it is also a win for questions on notice, but let us use this opportunity really well. I note that a motion on consultation is coming up tomorrow. This is a great example of doing consultation in a way that really tries to find out what our community wants so that we can do it.