

CLIMATE CHANGE — EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET

Statement

HON DR BRAD PETTITT (South Metropolitan) [5.25 pm]: I rise today to talk not about a media statement that did not go out, interestingly enough, but about an announcement that was made yesterday on the new climate change legislation in this state. The interesting part about that is it was not attached to a media statement. It went out last night and unless someone was a very close watcher of individual websites, they would not have even known about it. I note that on the same day that it went out, there were media statements about wrestling and other very minor things, yet on something as fundamental as the state setting new climate targets in legislation there was silence. As we know, the government is embarrassed by what it has put out, and so it should be. Yesterday's announcement was about WA setting a new climate target. That should be good news because the government is finally legislating to reach net zero by 2050. Good. There is no argument about that anymore. It is so obvious and it is a given; it is just that finally we are getting there. But what matters is what happens with the interim targets, and that is where the great disappointment lies.

The government has not set an interim target for this decade. We will now be the only state not to have set an interim target. Every other state has a target, from the lowest one, which is Queensland, with a target of 30 per cent; to New South Wales with a target of 50 per cent; Victoria with a target of 45 to 50 per cent; the ACT with a target of 65 to 75 per cent; South Australia with a target of 50 per cent; Tasmania with a target of net zero by 2030; and the federal government with a target of 43 per cent. All those targets are for 2030. Western Australia does not have one. We do not even know what our 2035 target will be. That is extremely frustrating because everybody who follows climate science knows that it is this decade—right now—in which we need to reduce our emissions if we are serious about keeping global warming under 1.5 degrees. If we do not have a target, we do not know where we are going. The first thing that came into my mind was one of my favourite misquotes from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, which is: if you don't know where you're going, any path will take you there. Literally, that is what it is like. We do not know where we are going and any path will take us there.

To be fair, there is one target for 2030 that the government has announced multiple times, which is the state government target to reduce the state's emissions by 80 per cent. On one level, that sounds impressive, until we realise that the state government's emissions make up less than 10 per cent of all emissions in the state. State government entities emit less than 10 per cent of WA's emissions. There will be no guidance on the other 90 per cent—none. I think that everyone in Western Australia should be gravely concerned about that, and this needs to be called out. I am standing here today because, once again, no-one is talking about it. There was no statement from the government on this. I think we should be concerned because we need to get on and act during this decade. I feel absolutely obliged to call out the government. For some reason, every other state can set a target and act on driving down emissions. What makes WA exceptional? Is it industry? Extractive industry makes up about 49 per cent of our state's emissions. Putting that aside for one moment, what about the other 51 per cent of emissions that we can get on and reduce right now? It is a great mystery to me. I stand up again in this place, like I feel I do every week, to say, "What are we doing this decade, the decade in which we have to act, as every scientist will tell us?" If the government does not want to listen to the scientists, look at the news. It should be an absolute wake-up call from what we have seen happen in the Northern Hemisphere over its summer and what we are seeing roll out now with El Niño coming this summer in the Southern Hemisphere. It should be a wake-up call for us to act. The idea in this context that this government has once again decided to just kick the can down the road to beyond 2030 with no target is shameful.