

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Energy Policy WA

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC asked:

1) I refer to the Household Energy Efficiency Scheme listed as a New Initiative on page 280 of the Western Australia State Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, and I ask:

(a) Has any additional funding been allocated to the \$13 million program in this budget, or since its announcement in 2020;

Answer: The funding for this program remains at \$13 million as provided for in the budget.

The Scheme is being delivered in partnership between non-government organisations, Synergy, Horizon Power and Energy Policy WA, and initial work focused on developing the framework for the pilot phase, including non-government organisation skill development. Future funding decisions will be informed by the results of the program.

(b) How many households will receive energy assessments and education from the funding allocation; and

Answer: The program seeks to assist 10,000 households experiencing hardship in Western Australia by 30 June 2025.

(c) What is the expected minimum reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions for the average household included in the program?

Answer: The expected reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions has not yet been quantified.

Potential improvements in energy efficiency will vary from household to household due to a range of factors - including household composition, appliances used, building quality, and climatic conditions for Horizon Power customers.

Estimated reductions in annual greenhouse gas emissions will be evaluated annually by measuring before and after electricity consumption data of participating households throughout the program.

The program is also commencing with a pilot phase, which will enable improvements to be made as learnings become available.

2) I refer to the Supporting Consumers section of the Significant Issues Affecting the Agency section on page 281 of the Western Australia State Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, and I ask will any funding from the \$750 million Climate Action Fund be allocated for expanding household decarbonisation and energy efficiency initiatives beyond customers experiencing hardship?

Answer: The \$750 million Climate Action Fund includes the following items:

- \$206 million for renewable energy initiatives to fuel Western Australia's future, including standalone power stations, clean energy in schools, and refurbishment of the Denham Power Station;
- \$118 million fund to invest in future climate-related initiatives, to respond to climate change and create climate-resilient communities; and
- \$50 million to drive new renewable hydrogen initiatives.

These initiatives are expected to contribute to expanding household decarbonisation and energy efficiency initiatives through whole of system measures.

Minister's initials

