

RENEWABLE ENERGY

**407. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to the media statement headed “Renewable hydrogen target to be investigated for Western Australia”, released on Friday, 6 May 2022. Will the government investigate a broader renewable energy target for Western Australia, as every other state and territory Labor government has done?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy.

Renewable energy targets have been implemented by state and territory governments that are part of the national electricity market, compensating for the lack of targets at a federal level to support the continued uptake of renewable energy and the privatised nature of the NEM electricity supply. Overall, the NEM has higher overall emissions than the south west interconnected system, with 66 per cent of the NEM’s generation output met by coal compared with 38 per cent in the SWIS for the 2020–21 financial year. Further, renewable generation met almost 40 per cent of underlying energy demand in the SWIS in the fourth quarter of 2020–21, compared with around 35 per cent in the NEM. Unlike the NEM, the SWIS is an isolated power system that does not have any backup through an interconnector, so the transition to a high renewable penetration must be carefully managed to keep the lights on. We have been doing this through the energy transformation strategy implemented over the past three years.