

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION —
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

389. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

Last year's budget papers said that the Department of Environment and Conservation was developing a climate change adaptation strategy for Western Australia. Last month's budget papers said that the department is developing a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy for Western Australia. What are the key elements of the new mitigation strategy, and when will the strategy be released publicly?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for the question. I will not be releasing the strategy to the member in question time today, but it is under development by the Office for Climate Change. Last year, the Office for Climate Change had undertaken a great deal of work on the development of that strategy. However, it is fair to say that that work was very much predicated on the assumption that the commonwealth was going to introduce an emissions trading scheme, which of course did not happen.

Hon Sally Talbot: If you will take an interjection, I assume that is why you put "mitigation" in there. That is why I asked what the key elements of that will be.

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: Let me answer the question. I will get to that. I am just explaining to the member the situation about when it will be released. As a result of the fact that the commonwealth could not get a deal, we have now asked the Office for Climate Change to go back and look at the development of the strategy and focus much more on actions that can be undertaken at a state level, recognising that the ETS has not been put in place at the commonwealth level. With respect to adaptation and mitigation, that was a request by me. I thought it was important that if we are to have a strategy, we have both of those elements.