

CLIMATE CHANGE

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills) [12.53 pm]: Climate change is not simply something to believe in; it is a hard scientific fact. The conclusion that climate change is human-induced is based on the empirical method of acquiring knowledge, which has characterised the development of science since the seventeenth century. Rising carbon emissions are driving significant shifts in climatic trends. Increasingly frequent extreme weather events are affecting our everyday lives. Bushfires, cyclones and drought have all recently affected WA's agricultural, mining, energy and financial sectors. Our livelihoods, our natural environment, our homes, our health and our children's future are all at risk.

Science demands an ambitious response. The business community needs policy certainty and a stable investment environment. Eighty-one per cent of Australian voters want their governments to act. Our children, whose future sits squarely in our hands, are taking to the streets, urging us to consider how the decisions we take today will shape the world they inherit tomorrow. Australia is currently governed by a party so internally chaotic and divided that it cannot accept the fact of climate change, let alone respond to its challenges. Its promises are hollow and its policies are meaningless. We can and must act.

Western Australians have a stark choice on Saturday: they can choose policy leadership and a clear vision for carbon abatement, combined with an ambitious economic agenda. They can choose a Shorten Labor government for real action on climate change.