

CLIMATE CHANGE — GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

6404. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

Noting the clause in recent Ministerial conditions for the approval of greenhouse gas intensive proposals which says that a measure will continue to apply until ‘determined by the Minister for Environment that it is non-complementary to the Commonwealth Government’s greenhouse gas reduction legislation applicable to the proposal’, and I ask —

- (1) How will the Minister make such a determination?
- (2) What will the process be for making such a determination?
- (3) How will proponents and the public be notified about the Minister’s determination?
- (4) Is Western Australia one of the states currently undertaking its own review, under the auspices of the Select Council on Climate Change, to evaluate measures against the Council of Australian Governments-endorsed complementarity principles?
- (5) Will the Minister be assessing the Environmental Protection Authority’s recommended greenhouse gas related conditions against these principles?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Will the Minister’s determination be made public?
- (8) If yes to (7), when?
- (9) If no to (7), why not?
- (10) In relation to industrial energy efficiency, will the Minister continue to apply conditions to emission intensive proposals in Western Australia that are complementary to a national carbon price?
- (11) If no to (10), why not?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) The Minister, in deciding whether to apply or continue greenhouse gas conditions, will consider a number of factors including complementarity.
- (2) The process for amending conditions is set out in section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. This includes the provision of advice from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to the Minister. Advice is also provided by the Department of Environment and Conservation, which would have regard to the complementary measures review.
- (3) All conditions set by the Minister are publicly available on the EPA’s website at www.epa.wa.gov.au.
- (4) Yes
- (5) The Select Council on Climate Change, established by the Council of Australian Governments in February 2011, has responsibility for developing a national approach to assessing the complementarity of existing and future climate change measures with the carbon price mechanism. Greenhouse gas conditions under the Environmental Protection Act are one of the measures nominated to be reviewed through this process.
- (6) Not applicable
- (7) See the answer to (3). In addition, the outcome of the complementary measures review will be made public after it has been finalised.
- (8) The Minister for Environment will make his decision after the EPA has reported its findings.
- (9) Not applicable
- (10) The Minister will make decisions on conditions on individual proposals on a case-by-case basis.
- (11) Not applicable.