

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

1091. Hon DIANE EVERS to the Minister for Environment:

Given the acknowledgement in the 2021 budget of the costs associated with climate change at page 651 with regard to estuaries, Perth's water supply, and carting water, for which \$3.3 million has been spent to date, I ask the following question.

- (1) Has the government calculated the expenditure directly related to the impacts of climate change for water over the forward estimates?
 - (a) If yes, how much and in which agencies is it detailed; and
 - (b) if no, why not?
- (2) How has the government accounted in the budget for the potential costs associated with the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, heatwaves, an increasing number of violent storms and bushfires, decreasing water supply, and health impacts of mosquito-borne and other diseases?
- (3) Does the government recognise that these impacts will continue to get worse and cost more until the factors causing climate change are reversed?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) This part of the question should be referred to the Minister for Water, who has advised that it is not possible to provide an answer in the time frame available. An answer will be provided on the next sitting day.
- (2)–(3) The potential impacts and costs of climate change are linked to future global emissions trajectories. The McGowan government recognises that climate change will have an effect on Western Australia's environment, communities and economy. The costs will generally increase over time without action. Climate risks are already considered by the government in a range of policies, processes and guidance; for example, the "Assessment of Coastal Erosion Hotspots in Western Australia". The government is also developing a state climate policy to contribute to national emissions reduction goals and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The state climate policy will be released later this year and include actions to support adaptation and minimise climate risk.