

NET ZERO EMISSIONS — TRANSITION

714. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Premier:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to transitioning Western Australia to net zero. Can the Premier advise the house how this government is facilitating the switch to renewable energy; and can the Premier advise how this energy transition will create new jobs and grow the economy?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. It is a very important one that goes to the central question impacting our economy today. The history of Western Australia's economy has been punctuated with pivotal moments, including the gold rush, the advance of agriculture, the rise of iron ore mining in the Pilbara and the start of LNG exports from the North West Shelf. They have all had a profound impact on Western Australia's economy.

We are now on the precipice of another pivotal moment; our transition to renewable energy, as well as that of our international neighbours, represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If done right, we can achieve many things. We can create new jobs through diversification of the economy. We will set our state up to be powered by renewable and affordable energy, and we will export these products to help our international neighbours move to a net zero regime as well.

Coordination is the key to optimising the pace and scale of our energy transition and we want energy producers, mining companies, the construction industry, households and government to be in lockstep, and that is why, when I became Premier, I got to work on planning the 2023 WA Energy Transition Summit. This historical event will take place on 16 November and will bring together key players including industry, peak bodies, entrepreneurs, service providers and unions to leverage the unique opportunities that are upon us to work towards a common goal of becoming a global renewable energy superpower. The summit will be co-hosted by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. Tickets to the Energy Transition Summit went on sale on Monday.

We have confirmed a raft of speakers, including federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Hon Chris Bowen; federal Minister for Resources, Hon Madeleine King; Curtin Institute for Energy Transition advisory board chair, Sharan Burrow; Seven Group Holdings CEO, Ryan Stokes; and Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA CEO, Rebecca Tomkinson. Our speakers and panellists will examine a range of key issues for the transition, including energy infrastructure, jobs, social licence, regulation, finance and the important role of gas. I look forward to confirming further speakers and panellists as we get closer to the event.

The WA Labor government recognises the magnitude of the opportunity that is upon us: the ambitious and yet realistic and important target of reaching net zero. There are already many wheels in motion: the closure of all coal-fired power stations in Collie by 2030; big batteries being built in Kwinana and Collie; and the \$3 billion partnership to transform the south west interconnected system and to establish the north west interconnected system. There are more wind farms in the pipeline; a huge take-up of household rooftop solar; an expanding network of EV charging stations; and a growing ecosystem of innovators at the forefront of renewable energy technology, and much more.

This transition will be a challenge, and our state will soon reach its peak emissions, but it is an important challenge and one that we have to be awake to. We need to ensure that the state government's investment can facilitate industry investment. We have to ensure that we meet the ambitions of the Western Australian public to achieve net zero status for our economy and we have to ensure that we can assist our regional partners in decarbonising their economies as well. The future is here before us, as we shift to a renewable energy future. It is an exciting and challenging future, and a journey that I think we should all look to travelling on together.

The SPEAKER: Before I give the call to the Leader of the Liberal Party I would like to acknowledge, on behalf of the member for South Perth, the student leaders from Como Secondary College. Welcome.