

CLIMATE COMMISSION REPORT

579. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Is the minister aware of the Climate Commission's report titled "Western Australia Climate Change Impacts" and the findings in the report that climate change has contributed to the marked drying trend in the south west of the state and that the sea levels along the Western Australian coast have been rising at more than double the global average?
- (2) Does the minister agree with the Climate Commission's statement that this is the critical decade for action and that to minimise climate change risks we must begin to decarbonise our economy and move to cleaner energy sources during this decade?
- (3) Does the minister support the view that the longer we wait, the more difficult and costly it will be?
- (4) If the minister does support the views of the Climate Commission, why, after three years of Barnett government budget promises, does Western Australia still not have a climate strategy?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

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

- (1) Yes, the findings are consistent with previous reports and the work done by the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative of which the Western Australian government is a partner.
- (2)–(3) The minister agrees that action to address climate change is necessary. The government is developing a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy so that Western Australia can play its part. This will identify appropriate strategies and actions for Western Australia to undertake in both mitigating climate change by reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. The primary responsibility for emissions reduction policies and instruments rests with the federal government, which must design these guidelines to meet Australia's international commitments to play our part in what must be a global solution.
- (4) The government is committed to developing climate change policies for the future through the climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy and the strategic energy initiative. Delays and uncertainty around national parameters are a key reason that work on CCAMS has not yet been completed. Consultation with state agencies on a draft strategy has occurred, and public consultation will follow.