

FEDERAL BUDGET — CLIMATE CHANGE

247. Mrs J. HUGHES to the Minister for the Environment:

Would the minister explain to the house how the Rudd government budget announcement yesterday will help Western Australian communities respond to climate change and protect the Western Australian environment for future generations?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Kingsley for the question. I congratulate the member for Kingsley for her organisation of the Kingsley Energy and Sustainability Expo, which was held last weekend. It was a very successful community event that focused on what this government, and now the federal Rudd government, is very keen to do in engaging community with information and real practical measures to address the climate change challenge. Congratulations to the member for Kingsley. It is an exercise that many members could undertake in the future.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Is it not very sad that we start hearing wailing from members opposite, because last night's federal budget clearly showed that at last this nation has federal leadership that is challenging climate change head-on. The state government can now work hand in hand with the federal government to ensure that the challenge of climate change is addressed into the future. During the 11 years that the federal Liberal Party was in power it was dragged screaming to understand that climate change was a challenge that Australia faced. It was only in the dying months of government that former Prime Minister Howard decided that it was an issue. Quite clearly, the federal budget will complement a range of measures that the state government has already introduced, particularly the \$100 million Premier's climate change action statement. Last night's announcement means that we will have complementary measures with those of the states and territories to address climate change at the community and individual levels. Green loans of up to \$10 000 will be available to families to pay for energy and water-saving measures in the home; there will be \$500 rebates —

Dr G.G. Jacobs interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Roe to order for the first time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — for landlords to install insulation in rental properties. Other measures include the One Stop Green Shop environmental resource for schools, businesses and families and an extension of the 10-star energy efficiency rating scheme to assist consumers in making energy-efficient choices when buying household goods and electronic equipment. There will also be \$25 million in increased funding for solar power rebates, which will reduce the cost of installing solar panels on homes, and a commitment to make every Australian school a solar school. That commitment builds on the Premier's climate change action statement, which expands the number of schools involved in the Solar Schools program. These measures, as well as others, were announced last evening. Now that Australia has the national leadership that we have begged for over the last 11 years, it is being delivered a national framework to address climate change, a framework that is focused on working with the states and territories to deliver on a whole range of programs. This means that Australia can now regard itself as an international leader on addressing the threat that climate change brings to all communities.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: These measures are in contrast to what was invested in public transport when the Liberal Party was in power for eight years—zip! It did not build one centimetre of rail for the public transport system, which shows that it had very little innovation.

The partnership between state and federal leadership is very strong. I look forward—as this state government does—to working with Penny Wong, Peter Garrett and the Rudd government to continue to deliver quality programs that reduce energy costs, reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, and reduce the carbon footprint of families and individuals. It was a great announcement by the federal government last night, and the state government will work hand in hand with that government to make a real difference in addressing climate change into the future.

Dr G.G. Jacobs interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Roe to order for the second time.