

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY — LNG INDUSTRY — EMISSIONS

1251. Hon TIM CLIFFORD to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the issues paper titled “Climate Change in Western Australia”.

- (1) Does the minister concede that the paper focuses more on what the individual and the Western Australian community can do, rather than addressing the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in WA—that is, the liquefied natural gas industry?
- (2) Is the issues paper the only community consultation that the state government will do for its climate change policy?
- (3) Will the fast-tracking of the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement Amendment Bill 2019 and the subsequent increase of LNG production negate the effectiveness of the government’s future climate policy to reduce emissions?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The climate change issues paper notes the significant contribution that emission-intensive extractive industries make to Western Australia’s overall greenhouse gas emissions. It points to opportunities for reduction of emissions associated with liquefied natural gas production, including improved leak detection and remediation, changes to venting and flaring practices, and greater adoption of industrial-scale renewables.

On 26 August 2019, the McGowan government released its greenhouse gas emissions policy for major projects. The policy commits the government to working with all sectors of the economy towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and sets out the broad approach that will be taken into consideration for new proposals and expansions with significant greenhouse gas emissions. The policy will support the preparation of greenhouse gas emissions plans that outline a contribution to the state’s net zero aspiration. The climate change issues paper is open for community and stakeholder comment until 29 November. The government will consider further consultation opportunities after this time and as appropriate.

- (3) The North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement Amendment Bill 2019 is not being fast-tracked. Every project proposing to use the facility, as well as the NWS plant, will be required to have its own environmental approvals in place prior to being able to access the facility, including consideration of emissions.