

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (RENEWABLE ENERGY PROPOSALS) EXEMPTION ORDER 2023

1519. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the recent decision to introduce the Environmental Protection (Renewable Energy Proposals) Exemption Order 2023, which exempts the Minister for Lands under section 41 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 when granting an option to lease or fixing related matters to that option.

- (1) Under what circumstances, if any, will renewable energy projects still be required to be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under part IV of the Environmental Protection Act?
- (2) Given that part IV, division 1 of the EP act provides for the referral and assessment of significant and strategic proposals, and proposals of a prescribed class, does the minister consider the provisions under section 88 of the Land Administration Act 1997 to be unnecessary?
- (3) If yes to (2), why will the minister not apply the order to all projects in which an option to lease is being sought under the LA act?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1) Referral to the Environmental Protection Authority under part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 has not changed.
- (2) Section 88 of the Land Administration Act 1997 is a matter for the Minister for Lands.
- (3) This new class exemption is just one of many initiatives being driven by the green energy approvals initiative as part of the WA government's commitment to decarbonise Western Australia. The class exemption clearly sets out that the exemption applies only to renewable energy proposals.