

TREASURY CORPORATION — GREEN BOND

Statement by Treasurer

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Treasurer) [12.04 pm]: I rise to inform the house about the successful launch of Western's Australia's first ever green bond. Over the next several years, our government will invest significantly to move Western Australia toward net zero emissions. We will invest in major projects such as the decarbonisation of the state's main electricity grid and will facilitate the move towards emission-free vehicles. This will see major infrastructure installed around our state, including grid batteries, wind farms, standalone power systems and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Of course, this investment must be funded. On 7 June 2023, I was very proud to announce the successful launch of Western Australia's inaugural green bond, recognising that there is a huge demand for opportunities to invest in projects with positive environmental outcomes. This green bond has raised \$1.9 billion for eligible government projects that deliver positive environmental outcomes—and it was incredibly popular! Not only was this the largest ever primary issue of the Western Australian Treasury Corporation, but also the inaugural green bond was heavily oversubscribed, with over \$6 billion in bids from more than 60 investors. This demonstrates the demand for investments that are good for the environment. It also demonstrates the great trust investors have in the Western Australian economy and the government's ability to deliver on these outcomes.

The issue of the bond follows more than two years of work by the WA Treasury Corporation in coordination with other government agencies to outline the state's environmental, social and governance credentials to domestic and international investors. The green bond and the work by Treasury Corporation to build the state's ESG credentials with investors will help keep borrowing costs lower, as this initiative will mean we now capture the pool of global investors that are increasingly aware of and interested in ESG performance. Having major ratings agencies increasingly aware of ESG credentials in their ratings assessments also supports our strong credit rating. We are confident that, in addition to our responsible financial management since coming to office, our significant environmental and social investments will enable Western Australia to maintain high ratings into the future. I commend the WA Treasury Corporation for its extensive work to issue the green bond and build the state's ESG credentials with investors over the past two years and look forward to seeing those fantastic projects create jobs right across WA.