

SCHOOLS CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY FUND

**786. Ms J.L. HANNS to the Minister for Education:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's ongoing commitment to delivering a sustainable renewable energy transition in Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the \$44.6 million schools clean energy technology fund is helping schools to enhance their energy efficiency and sustainability?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this fund is assisting schools in our regions by supporting Synergy's schools virtual power plant pilot project?

**Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I certainly can assist the member in answering those questions. It is great to be part of a Cook Labor government that takes sustainable clean energy very seriously. It is great to be sitting next to the Minister for Energy and the Minister for Climate Action. I also applaud the member for Collie–Preston for her advocacy in this area and in education matters generally.

I am pleased to announce that 60 Western Australian public schools will benefit from round 3 of the Cook Labor government's schools clean energy technology fund. That includes 32 regional schools and 28 metropolitan schools. Under the round 3 funding, Western Australian public schools were invited to apply for funds to install LED lights to reduce their energy costs and carbon emissions. As I stated, out of that round 3 application process, 32 regional schools and 28 metropolitan schools were successful. The investment will increase the number of WA public schools that receive a contribution from the \$44.6 million schools clean energy technology fund to 240 schools over four years. That is an outstanding achievement. The initiative also spans the existing solar schools program, Synergy's virtual power plant project and general maintenance replacement of lighting in schools with LED lights. The Cook Labor government understands the need for this to ensure we move towards a clean, sustainable energy source for our schools and for the general environmental impact that will have, as well as the need for a sustainable clean energy future. The schools clean energy technology fund aligns with Western Australia's climate change policy, which the Minister for Climate Action is very committed to, as is the Minister for Energy and the whole government. These initiatives also provide valuable opportunities for students and teachers to observe, discuss and understand the benefits of renewable energy technologies in real time. Young people continue to send a strong message that sustainability is important to them. The Cook Labor government is taking steps to safeguard their future through important climate initiatives such as the schools clean energy technology fund.

This fund, to a significant extent, goes to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. That is everyone's responsibility. It is great that our young people can observe this in real time, as I said. I am very heartened by the passion of young Western Australians in wanting to ensure we have a clean energy source because they, of course, are the ones who will gain the most benefit in ensuring we protect our planet. It is great to be part of a Labor government that is committed to creating a cleaner, more energy-efficient future for all Western Australians.