

CLIMATE ACTION FUND

659. Ms M.J. HAMMAT to the Minister for Climate Action:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to delivering net zero carbon emissions by 2050, including through the \$1.25 billion climate action fund.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the carbon innovation grants program will help reduce emissions in heavy industries?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this will support WA in meeting its target of net zero emissions?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

- (1)–(2) I can do that, and I am grateful for the question from the member for Mirrabooka because the member knows that this government takes the challenge of climate action seriously. The issue of climate change is real; it is accepted by this government and we are acting. As the member pointed out, I have announced the launch of a new \$15 million carbon innovation grants program, and it is part of our election commitment to spend the \$1.25 billion apportioned to our climate action fund. This grant will target emissions reductions in heavy industry, with a focus on supporting innovative carbon abatement. We know that in Western Australia we have big emitters. That is an issue we are well aware of and are confronting. The mining, manufacturing and construction sectors of Western Australia's economy contribute almost 60 per cent of the state's total carbon emissions. The program complements our government's development of the sectoral emissions reduction strategies with which we are supporting businesses, industry and people right around Western Australia to reduce their emissions now to make those important commitments for 2030, as a foundation for net zero in 2050.

The carbon innovation grants program will provide funding for both feasibility studies and pilot projects to support emerging technologies, to scale fast and have a big impact. We know that this government already has a significant commitment to transition the Western Australian economy to net zero by 2050. Grant applications will be assessed against merit criteria to ensure that the projects we fund lead to significant and genuine removal or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions within our state. We will ensure that we maximise the co-benefits across the wider economy.

We are leading by example. The government's reduction plan for its own emissions has a target of 80 per cent reduction by 2030 on our 2020 levels. This is important work; it is about demonstrating financial support and commitment to our big emitters, and encouraging them to take on new innovations and technology to reduce their emissions. This is something that is needed; it is part of a broad suite of initiatives in this area and we need to act now—in this decade—because 2020 to 2030 is crucial. We need to achieve real reductions leading up to 2030 and then onto 2050.