Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL — Tuesday, 17 October 2023] p5489c-5490a Hon Dr Brad Pettitt; Hon Darren West

CLIMATE CHANGE — LEGISLATION

1248. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Climate Action:

I refer to the stated four-week consultation period for the WA government's climate change legislation, beginning on Wednesday, 20 September and ending today, for which no link or email address has been provided as at close of business on Monday, 16 October 2023.

- (1) Why has the government failed to provide a clear and directly accessible avenue for members of the public to give feedback on the climate change legislation?
- Will the minister please table a list of the "more than 100 stakeholder groups invited to information sessions and able to provide feedback on the Climate Change Bill 2023", as stated on the website?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) Will the minister commit to providing an extension to the public consultation period for the climate change bill of 2023 and a publicly accessible link to enable members of the community to provide feedback?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

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

- (1) The government has made significant information on the bill publicly available to ensure transparency and support understanding of the key provisions of the legislation. The government has published an explanatory paper, a one-page fact sheet and answers to frequently asked questions. Information sessions have been held with a wide range of stakeholder groups to explain the provisions of the legislation and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback on the legislation. A contact email—climatebill@dwer.wa.gov.au—is available online via the publicly accessible link in the one-page fact sheet to allow stakeholders to seek further information.
- (2) I table a list of stakeholders that were approached to be briefed and provide feedback on the legislation. This list includes over 140 groups, including First Nations people; peak representative bodies from industry, agriculture, water and conservation sectors; Australian and state government agencies; local government; government trading enterprises; universities; advocacy groups; and non-government organisations. This process has ensured a diverse range of views have been sought and considered in finalising the legislation.

[See paper <u>2722</u>.]

- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The government announced its intention to introduce climate change legislation to Parliament in January 2023. The climate change bill will deliver on this government's commitment to legislate Western Australia's target of net zero emissions and underscore our commitment to enduring action on one of the most significant challenges of our lifetime. The government looks forward to debating the legislation in Parliament.