

POWERINGWA — RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy) [12.06 pm]: Western Australia is about to transform, decarbonise and futureproof our main electricity network, the south west interconnected system. Electricity modelling suggests that demand could increase fivefold by 2050, and this will require more than 50 gigawatts of generation capacity. The grid needs to be transformed to access the best renewable resources at the lowest cost, which means up to 4 000 kilometres of new and upgraded transmission network could be required. This energy transition, combined with ambitious industry decarbonisation goals, means the scale of new renewable energy generation, storage and transmission that will need to be built is unprecedented.

To support this transition, I am pleased to advise the house that the Cook government has established PoweringWA. This new government entity will coordinate the actions required to deliver new electricity infrastructure at the pace needed for decarbonisation. Transforming WA's electricity system is a complex but necessary task, and the scope of it reaches outside any single government trading enterprise and beyond the responsibilities of any existing agency.

An infrastructure build of this scale requires community support, and we are committed to ensuring communities are brought along on the journey from the beginning. PoweringWA will engage meaningfully with stakeholders and will help impacted communities and First Nations people to realise value from the energy transformation. Western Power will continue to be responsible for planning, designing and delivering transmission projects, and renewable energy proponents will retain responsibility for the delivery of their projects. PoweringWA will help orchestrate the various moving parts and ensure that the delivery of electricity infrastructure is efficient, effective and mitigates impacts as much as possible. PoweringWA is now in its development phase and is located in the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. I look forward to updating the house on progress next year.