

HEMPCRETE — CARBON SEQUESTRATION

944. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the independent review of Australian carbon credit units finalised in late 2022.

- (1) Does the WA government have a whole-of-government strategy for carbon sequestration across sectors?
- (2) As part of its formal or de facto strategy for carbon sequestration, does the government intend that buildings should play a role through the use of building materials that absorb carbon, such as hempcrete, in construction carried out by the public sector—for example, social housing—or the private sector?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

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

- (1) The *Western Australian climate policy*, released in November 2020, recognises the state's significant carbon sequestration potential, with storing carbon and caring for our landscapes a core theme of the policy. Key initiatives implemented under this theme include the carbon farming and land restoration program, the Carbon for Conservation initiative and the native vegetation rehabilitation scheme. These actions are encouraging agricultural producers to reduce on-farm emissions and supporting the generation of Australian carbon credit units to allow offsetting of emissions from hard to abate industries.
- (2) The government is currently developing the sectoral emissions reduction strategies to provide robust and credible emissions reduction pathways for Western Australia, with tangible actions for reducing emissions consistent with the state government's target of net zero emissions by 2050. As part of this, the government is considering a range of approaches to reduce emissions and enhance carbon sequestration. The state government has previously supported innovative building materials to lower emissions, with \$100 000 awarded to Hemp Squared through the regional economic development grants program by the former Minister for Regional Development, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, MLC.