

 <p>Judy Edwards MLA Minister for the Environment; Science</p>		<p>Notification Service</p> <p>Statements Home Page</p>
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Statement Released: 30-May-2005

Portfolio: Environment

Taskforce to tackle **energy** sector greenhouse emissions

30/05/05

The State Government will establish a high-level taskforce to help Western Australia make a substantial leap forward in its approach to managing greenhouse gas emissions.

Environment and Science Minister Judy Edwards today said the new Greenhouse and **Energy** Taskforce would advise the Government on practical and economically feasible ways to manage greenhouse gas emissions from the stationary (non-transport) **energy** sector.

Dr Edwards said a significant component of WA's greenhouse gas emissions came from power generation and other stationary **energy** sources.

"Renewable **energy** and other low emissions technologies are continuing to develop, offering new possibilities for managing greenhouse gas emissions from the stationary **energy** sector," she said.

"As a government, we want to be sure we can embrace those technologies while simultaneously ensuring that we have the competitively priced **energy** we need to keep our economy moving."

The taskforce would build on the WA Greenhouse Strategy and the work already being done by the Sustainable **Energy** Development Office.

"Dr Roy Green, former deputy chair of the Environmental Protection Authority, will head the taskforce," the Minister said.

"He will be joined by four specialists, who will bring to the table the necessary expertise to consider this crucial area from both an environmental and economic perspective. Those specialists will be chosen by myself and **Energy** Minister Alan Carpenter."

Dr Edwards said there was a need for a comprehensive policy framework to address greenhouse gas emissions from the State's stationary **energy** sector.

"Without such a policy framework, greenhouse gas emissions from the stationary **energy** sector will continue to increase rapidly," she said.

"Global greenhouse emissions are having a major impact on our environment and economy and we must act now to manage them.

"In 2004, the Australian Chief Scientist, Robin Batterham, advised Australian Governments that he believed it was technically feasible and necessary for Australia to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2050.

"We need to have a clear view of how such a reduction could be achieved and what the social and economic consequences would be."

The Minister said the burden of cutting greenhouse emissions needed to be shared across the community.

"We all have a role to play in this," she said.

"Even within the stationary **energy** sector, we must be even-handed in demanding better environmental standards. Requiring significant greenhouse reductions or offsets from individual new projects in the absence of a sector-wide policy framework would distort the **energy** market and place an inequitable burden on new **energy** producers and could be counter productive in the long run."

Dr Edwards said the taskforce would develop proposals for **energy** conservation initiatives similar to the water conservation measures developed through the State Water Strategy. These initiatives would include encouraging businesses and householders to reduce **energy** consumption.

The Government is already participating with other State and Territory Governments in developing a preferred model for a national emissions trading scheme. The taskforce would advise the Government on measures that could complement and prepare WA for a national emissions trading scheme and integration with international emissions trading markets.

"The taskforce also will develop policy proposals for Government consideration on greenhouse offsets that will provide clear ground rules for proponents of projects that will have significant greenhouse emissions," the Minister said.

"In addition, I have asked the chief scientist to co-ordinate preparation of a far-sighted **energy** technology innovation strategy, in partnership with the **energy** industry and **energy** technology researchers.

"This strategy initially will focus on the coal industry and will build upon work undertaken by the international community, the Commonwealth

and other State Governments. The strategy will be designed to harness industry research efforts aimed at creating a new greenhouse-friendly **energy** sector in WA."

Minister's office: 9220 5050

Government of Western Australia

Media Statement

  Judy Edwards MLA Minister for the Environment; Science	

Statement Released: 26-Aug-2005

Portfolio: Environment, Science

Edwards appoints **energy** greenhouse taskforce members

26/8/05

Environment and Science Minister Judy Edwards today announced the membership of the Greenhouse and **Energy** Taskforce to advise Government on greenhouse policy as it applies to power stations.

Dr Edwards described the calibre of the membership as outstanding and said she had full confidence in the ability of the taskforce to prepare an overall framework that would enable the State's **energy** sector to meet the challenges associated with climate change.

The Minister flagged the taskforce last May when she released her determination in respect to appeals on the proposed private coal-fired power station, Bluewaters 1, at Collie.

"The taskforce will advise the Government on practical and economically feasible ways to manage greenhouse gas emissions from the stationary (non-transport) **energy** sector," she said.

"This sector contributes a significant component of Western Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. However, renewable **energy** and other low emissions technologies are continuing to develop, offering new possibilities for managing greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector."

The taskforce will build on the WA Greenhouse Strategy and the work already being done by the Sustainable **Energy** Development Office.

The taskforce will be headed by former Environmental Protection Authority deputy chair, Dr Roy Green. Other members are:

- Dr John Zillman, the recently retired president of the World Meteorological Organisation and head of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology;

- Ms Cathy Zoi, group executive director of Bayard Capital, a private fund investing the environmental and sustainable **energy** sectors and a former chief of staff of environmental policy in the Clinton White House;
- Mr John Akehurst, former chief executive officer of Woodside Petroleum Ltd and now CEO of Biostarch Pty Ltd; and
- Mr Richard Begley, senior manager with the Allen Consulting Group and a specialist in greenhouse and sustainable **energy** economics and the development of carbon trading strategies.

Dr Edwards said the taskforce would report direct to her as Minister for the Environment; Science and to State Development and **Energy** Minister Alan Carpenter.

"We are delighted each of the members has accepted the State's invitation to be on the taskforce," she said.

Key terms of reference for the taskforce are to advise on:

- practical and economically feasible policies to manage greenhouse gas emissions from the stationary **energy** sector in the short term;
- longer-term policies the State should consider to assist efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- the feasibility and implications of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2050;
- measures to prepare the State for any national emissions trading scheme and future integration with international emissions trading markets; and
- a proposed greenhouse offsets policy to provide clear ground rules for proponents of projects that will have significant greenhouse emissions.

Minister's office 9220 5050