

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Reductions Bill

June 6, 2007

Mr PEDERICK: There was much debate in the upper house about where the baseline measurement is as far as the level of megatons of emissions per annum. The number for 2004 is said to be 27.6 megatons per annum where the levels for 1990 were 32.4 megatons per annum. Projections in 2007 are to be near 1990 levels, which is 32.4 megatons. How do we get such a dramatic increase from 27.6 megatons in 2004 to 32.4 megatons in around 18 months, which is the projected 2007 figure?

It gets a bit confusing whether imported power generated interstate is included in these figures. Some would say that the 2004 emissions is 27.6 megatons but then, with imported power, it goes up to 31.8 megatons per annum. Even though it is a totally voluntary piece of legislation and no-one has to abide by it, what is the baseline emission measurement and does it include imported power generated from interstate?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: This is based on all the emerging national and international best practice that comes out of what is being done by the international bodies on this, the Stern review, and so on. The Climate Change Council will have to report every year and we will have to report every two years. In terms of whether it recognises greenhouse gas produced interstate in terms of power, that has been recognised in the greenhouse strategy that you have before you.

One minute, people keep saying that this is voluntary and, therefore, ineffectual; then in the next minute they say: however, it will destroy the economy, even though what will now destroy the economy and force a recession in South Australia was described by you a few weeks ago as being too weak as well as unenforceable. It is becoming bizarre. What has happened is that we are showing leadership. We are showing leadership by being the first place ever to say that we will have 20 per cent of our own power produced and consumed in South Australia from sustainable energy by 2020, and we will reach that.

In the last six months people said that it was totally unachievable. We are actually ahead of where we need to be to reach those targets. We also came out and put our money where our mouth is and said that, for the contract that we have in terms of buying sustainable energy, 20 per cent of our power by the end of, I think, this year would come from sustainable energy largely from wind power. That was part of the purchase for power used in hospitals, schools and government buildings. As a result of our doing that, it meant that other states then followed. We then challenged local government to come out and do the same, and dozens of councils came out and matched us.

What we are doing with the sectoral voluntary agreements is negotiating with sectors for them to do the right thing. It is about leadership. The Leader of the Opposition wants to make them mandatory, apparently. Maybe he should tell that to Business SA.

Mr PEDERICK: I seek a little more clarity with respect to the question I asked earlier about the baseline figure. The figure for the 1990 emissions is 32.4 megatons. Is that the net power generation figure for South Australia; does it include imported power from interstate; and is that the baseline figure that we will be moving forward with to calculate all further calculations on how we control our emission load? It was not clarified in the upper house under lots of questioning. This all happened about six weeks ago, and I think the committee deserves an answer.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: If he looks at the bill, the honourable member will find that clause 14(2)(d), under Part 4, 'policies, programs and other initiatives', provides:
apply up-to-date practices and methodologies in calculating greenhouse gas emissions, and the use of renewable energy, taking into account national and international developments; and
(e) take into account the requirements of any relevant legislation (whether at the state or national level).
These matters have been dealt with.