

Auditor General's Report – 11 Nov 08

Questions to Premier Rann – Sustainability and Climate Change - in committee

Mr PEDERICK: On page 839, what specific advice has the Premier's council given the government on the attainability of its greenhouse gas emissions targets, namely, limiting the state's greenhouse gas emissions to 101 per cent of 1990 levels during 2008-12 and by 60 per cent by 2020-50?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I met with the chair, Mr David Klingberg, a former chancellor of the University of South Australia. As you can see, it is an extraordinarily prestigious group of people. They give us advice on a range of strategies by which we can reach those targets. I am happy to come back with some additional information.

There are some areas where we are doing particularly well. As I mentioned recently, at Snowtown we opened the TrustPower wind farm. TrustPower is a New Zealand company based in Tauranga. We opened \$200 to \$300 million worth of wind farm. I think it was about 23 kilometres long, and the next stage will take it to 35 kilometres long. I was able to point out on that day that, with 8 per cent of Australia's population, we have about 58 per cent of the wind power. That is an area in which the strategic plan target and, indeed, the target that we put into legislation that the member refers to, was to reach, as a state, 20 per cent of our power generated and 20 per cent of our power consumed coming from renewables by 2014, and we should reach that target by the end of 2010. So, that is four years ahead of our own target (which many people thought was too ambitious), but it is also 10 years ahead of the Rudd government's target that it has laid down for all of the Australian states—and, of course, we have heard other states whingeing that it is too tough.

I have to say that Mr Klingberg's advice is eminently practical. We have already entered into an agreement with the wine industry. The wine industry's commitment to signing up to the agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions is not only good for the environment and South Australia's credentials, but also is incredibly good for its marketing in Europe. Companies such as Tesco's have said to a number of people around the world, 'We like your wine, but we are going to be looking at price, quality and carbon footprint,' and our wine industry is the first in the world to sign up to something like that and, not only is it good for the environment, but it gives us a marketing edge also.

Mr PEDERICK: I refer to Volume III, page 819, Objectives of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, paragraph 3, which states (in part): 'to develop policies and deliver programs in the areas of...sustainability and climate change'. My question is: what funding has been applied for the administration and related costs of producing these objectives and initiatives?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In terms of our policy, if I were to give you the figure it could be misleading, so we will get a disaggregation of those figures for you.

... Answer supplied 19 February 2009

I have been advised of the following: The budget allocated for the Sustainability and Climate Change Division in 2008-09 is \$4,199,000.