

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 8 September 2020

C896. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment


I refer to the Federal Environment Minister's comments on 31 August 2020, as reported by Fairfax media outlets, where it was stated that, "*No state is going to secure the right to make approvals without signing up to binding Commonwealth-led national standards as part of the bilateral agreement, and without showing that it can meet the provisions of the agreement*", and I ask:

1. When have you, or your office, discussed these national standards referred to by the Federal Environment Minister?
2. What are the national standards that are being proposed by the Federal Government?
3. What funding arrangements have been discussed in relation to national standards?
4. What implications do these national standards have on the amendment bill to the WA's Environment Protection Act 1986, currently before the Legislative Council?

Answer

1. My office engages regularly with the office of the Federal Environment Minister on wide ranging matters. I am advised that national standards have been incidentally discussed, although I am yet to formally engage with the Federal Minister on this issue.

2-4. The Federal Government has not provided Western Australia with any endorsed national standards for consideration.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT;
DISABILITY SERVICES; ELECTORAL AFFAIRS**