

HON. ROBIN CHAPPLE MLC

WA Greens MLC Robin Chapple: streamlining the EPA won't fix its core problems

WA Greens Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region Robin Chapple has criticized the bilateral agreement between the State and Federal governments to streamline the EPA.

Speaking generally, Mr Chapple stated that EPA's flaws weren't limited to bureaucracy but rather a broader ineffectiveness of the Authority's functionally.

"We have had a rather scathing report by Professor Graeme Samuel that shows all the areas where the EPA needs improving - if we just focus on approval times for projects then only mining companies will get anything out of this – realistically the rest may even get less"

"Streamlining the EPA as it stands now won't result in better functionality, rather we will have the same poor results but receive the negative repercussions of those decisions sooner"

"The delay of duplication of documents between State and Federal governments is a concern that should be remedied but we still need stronger enforcement of compliance, outcomes-focused and means-tested standards, along with a broader incorporation of indigenous knowledge"

Mr Chapple also took issue with the State Government using the COVID recovery as a means to fast track mining projects that were fundamentally at odds with the long-term interests and needs of WA.

"No one is saying we shouldn't be looking to bolster the economy as soon as is viable but if these fast-tracked projects cost us more in the long run with emissions, unnecessary infrastructural investment and broad ecological damage then we are trading one crisis for a larger one"

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