



Media Statement

12 December 2023

Delicate balancing act required for environmental approvals overhaul

Federal Member for Curtin Kate Chaney MP has tentatively welcomed the State Government's planned overhaul of Western Australia's environmental approvals system.

Ms Chaney said we do need more efficient approval processes for green energy projects so we can attract global capital. But streamlined approvals must not result in cutting corners for our environment.

"While I welcome attempts to improve our competitiveness in the race to play a leading role in decarbonising industries, I am concerned we might throw the baby out with the bathwater.

"WA has incredible biodiversity which needs to be protected," said Ms Chaney. "The state's South-West is one of the 25 original global hotspots for wildlife and plants, and the first identified in Australia, yet we also have one of the highest extinction rates in the world."

Ms Chaney said environmental approvals require a delicate balancing act between extracting the resources the world needs to decarbonise and protecting our biodiversity.

"Any expedited approval processes must be focused on industries that have a genuine role in the long-term new energy economy.

"Integration between WA's environmental watchdog and the new Federal authority will be critical to streamlining the processes but also to ensuring proper oversight of approvals.

"The close relationship between the Cook Government and the fossil fuel industry worries me.

"No matter what the Premier says, expanding gas won't get us to net zero. We need some gas during transition, but we know the rest of the world will be trying to reduce its reliance on gas and other fossil fuels as fast as possible.

"If new faster approval processes are used to accelerate gas projects, it will be a bad outcome for the world and WA will end up with a lot of stranded assets."

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