

Will Hodgman, MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Thursday June 5, 2008

Labor commitment on climate change lacking

The State Government must commit to practical initiatives that will assist people reduce their carbon footprint, in next week's State Budget.

The State Labor Government's lack of interest in initiatives such as subsidies for solar hot water systems, water-saving devices, rain water tanks and incentives for using public transport in an embarrassment.

Today is World Environment Day.

The State Government's commitment to the environment can in part be illustrated by the fact that more than three years after it started the process, it still hasn't delivered a Climate Change Strategy or a State Coastal policy, and Tasmania lags the rest of the nation when it comes to initiatives to address the most pressing environmental challenge of our time, climate change.

"Only now does it seem to be waking up to the issue, but the government still has not properly engaged the community in this fight.

"World Environment Day is a perfect time for the State Government to commit at long last to some practical initiatives to help the community reduce its carbon footprint, as part of a comprehensive climate change strategy that has now been more than three years in the making and must surely be complete."

Last year, Mr Hodgman highlighted that the State Government's \$3 million commitment over three years to a climate change office compared with the ACT's \$100 million climate change strategy, a \$714 million strategy in Queensland, \$35.5 million for initiatives and a climate change office in Victoria and \$100 million over five years in WA to implement its climate change strategy.

Further information: Georgia Warner – 0418 564 073

