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## **WA Sustainable Energy Association Inc. (WA SEA)**

**Media Release – 4 September 2008**

### **Measured response for sustainable energy – election score chart reveals most sustainable party.**

The Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc. (WA SEA), WA's business chamber for the sustainable energy industries, has undertaken a comprehensive comparison of significant election commitments of the four biggest parties contesting the election.

The result reveals a clear choice for those planning to vote for a more sustainable Western Australia.

Through the election campaign, WA SEA has called for a raft of cost effective and practical mechanisms to deliver strong growth within the Western Australian sustainable energy industry, including measures that remove barriers to business entry and deliver incentives to ensure a more sustainable economy.

The table draws together previous commitments by parties while in government and opposition, together with analysis of new election commitments sourced from policy statements and media announcements. A total of 14 policy categories have been scored based on an assessment of each measure scored out of 5, with a total possible score of 70.

The Greens received the highest score with 59 out of 70 (84%), Labor scored 37 out of 70 (52%), the Liberals scored 27 out of 70 (39%), and the Nationals were largely absent from this policy space, including a negative score in one category, to a total of only 4 out of 70 (6%).

"We welcome all commitments by the parties. In considering the major parties, unfortunately the Liberal commitments to sustainable energy generally fail to match Labor's greater election commitments across the portfolio of sustainable energy, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and public transport," says Dr Ray Wills, Chief Executive of WA SEA.

"Ramping up use of Western Australia's massive renewable energy resources will actually diversify the economy and create a more robust environment for business."

"Building our renewable energy base improves both diversity and security of energy supply, provides new opportunities for business and employment, and will grow WA's industry base – these are all good business outcomes and will help build a more sustainable economy."

"While there is plenty of space for improvement, Labor have provided a more substantial commitment that will deliver a more sustainable economy for all Western Australians," says Dr Wills.

Table 1: WA SEA major policy initiatives matched to WA State election commitments.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Labor</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>Nationals</b>	<b>Greens</b>
<b>Implement a Mandated Renewable Energy Target for Western Australia</b>	Prior 15% target announced August 2007 WARET not supported.	Previously supported 20% target in Greens WARET Bill.	Previously supported 20% target in Greens WARET Bill.	Greens introduced 20% target in WARET Bill 1 Dec 2005.
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Support for renewable energy industry in Western Australia</b>	New renewable energy projects announced with additional funding for projects around WA.	Statement in support of renewable energy including support for existing commitments in the forward estimates.	No similar measures.	Extensive policy platform including new agency for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Domestic Feed-in Tariff for Renewable Energy Buyback Scheme (REBS)</b>	Yes – election policy announced.	Yes – election policy announced.	No similar measures.	Yes – election policy announced.
	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Commercial (SME) Renewable Energy Buyback Scheme (REBS)</b>	Commitment to examine post election.	Commitment to examine post election.	No similar measures.	Yes – election policy announced.
	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Support for solar water heaters</b>	Extended rebate scheme.	Supports existing commitments and extends to solar schools programs	No commitment announced.	Mandates domestic and business use.
	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Full support for the introduction of an Emissions Trading Scheme by 2010</b>	Support for start up in 2010.	Qualified support without hard target for start up.	No commitment announced.	Yes.
	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Government operations made carbon neutral</b>	No commitment announced.	No commitment announced.	No commitment announced.	No commitment announced.
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>WA Government 100% purchase of electricity from renewable sources by 2015.</b>	Current target of 20% by 2010 - no new commitments –	Stated support of existing commitments.	No commitment announced.	No commitment announced.
	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Energy funding</b>	<b>Efficiency</b>	Commitment in Premier's Climate Change Action Statement – further measures announced to support household insulation.	Stated support of existing commitments.	No commitment announced.	Broad support for domestic and commercial energy efficiency programs.
		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Measures on public transport</b>		Strong support for rail and public transport networks.	Strong support for rail and public transport networks.	No commitment announced.	Substantial support for rail and public transport networks.
		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Measures on fuel efficient vehicles</b>		Modest initiatives for green cars	No commitment announced.	Subsidy on fuel use for pensioners in regions	Rebates for green vehicles including hybrid and electric cars -
		<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mandatory energy efficiency for large firms</b>		Committed in Premier's Climate Change Action Statement.	Supports existing commitment.	No commitment announced.	Policy for transition to an energy-efficient economy
		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Improved minimum energy performance requirements for homes and buildings</b>		Previous commitment – not updated.	Support for existing commitments.	No commitment announced.	Policy for mandate 7 star energy efficient new homes
		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Government buildings to exceed minimum efficiency requirements</b>		Existing policy for government occupancy of new buildings – not updated.	Support for existing commitments.	No commitment announced.	Strong policy support
		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>59</b>

(14 policy categories, each measure scored out of 5, total possible score 70.)

### Media Contact:

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### Editors notes:

1. The Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc. (WA SEA) is a chamber of businesses variously promoting, developing and/or adopting sustainable energy technologies and services that minimise the use of energy through sustainable energy practices and maximise the use of energy from sustainable sources. WA SEA is supported by a growing membership of 180 industry members from a diversity of businesses. [www.wasea.com.au](http://www.wasea.com.au).