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MEDIA RELEASE

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Green Revenue to go to Green Initiatives – not General Revenue!

Last night, Independent MLC Ann Bressington successfully moved amendments to the Statutes Amendment (Energy Efficiency Shortfalls) Bill 2008 to require any money earned from penalties imposed on energy providers to be reinvested in green initiatives.

The Bill requires energy providers to reduce the greenhouse gasses of their household consumers to a set target each year. Where they fail to meet this target, a significant monetary penalty is imposed. Prior to Ann's amendment this money would have gone into general revenue, no different to speeding fines.

“Everyone knows that speeding fines are a major source of general revenue under the guise of reducing road fatalities,” Ms Bressington said.

“Another example of money collected under an altruistic guise is the ‘River Murray Levy’. No one quite knows where the money collected from the Levy is or how it has been spent.

The Government was again attempting to boost the State's coffers by similarly seeking to siphon off money into general revenue this time under the guise of responding to climate change.”

“My amendments now require the Government to spend this money to assist low socio-economic households to play their part in responding to climate change. Any excess will be spent more generally on renewable or energy efficiency initiatives.”

All that is left now is for the amendments to be accepted by the House of Assembly.

“I am hopeful that the Government will recognise the common-sense nature of these amendments and vote accordingly”, Ms Bressington said.

“This is a fine example of the important role that the Legislative Council plays in protecting the public interest and ensuring Government accountability for the State's long-term future”.

For further information, please contact Ann Bressington directly on 0448 887 277