

PUMPED HYDRO — COLLIE

**420. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:**

I should have saved that one for a Thursday!

I refer to the joint media statement of 14 June 2022 from the Premier and the Minister for Energy titled “State-owned coal power stations to be retired by 2030”, detailing that Synergy and Water Corporation are undertaking analysis to determine the feasibility of a pumped hydro project in Collie.

- (1) As at 8 May 2023, what is the status of Synergy and Water Corp’s analysis on the feasibility for pumped hydro storage in Collie?
- (2) What consultants external to government are party to Synergy and Water Corp’s analysis and assessment of suitability of pumped hydro in Collie, and under what financial terms were they engaged?
- (3) Since March 2019, has the Department of Finance received and assessed any market-led proposals pitched at pumped hydro for Collie; and, if so, from what entities and on what dates?
- (4) If yes to (3), what is the status of the market-led proposals as at 8 May 2023?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy.

- (1) An initial concept study has been undertaken regarding potential pumped hydro locations.
- (2) Synergy has engaged GHD to support its initial concept study under Synergy’s standard procurement terms.
- (3)–(4) The honourable member should redirect those questions to the relevant minister, who I believe is the Minister for Finance.