

ENERGY — TRANSITION STRATEGY

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

This question was lodged on 20 February. I refer to the joint media statement from the Premier and Minister for Energy on 14 June 2022 that announced that Western Australia's state-owned coal power stations will be retired by 2030 as part of the government's energy transition strategy.

- (1) How much energy will be stored by battery by 2030 under the strategy?
- (2) How many batteries and what capacity will be required to deliver that level of storage?
- (3) What would be the cost to construct that amount of battery storage?
- (4) How many hours of supply would that amount of storage provide to the south west integrated system if all generation went out?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy and it was correct as at 21 February 2023.

- (1) It will be a maximum of 4 400 megawatts at any point in time by Synergy, plus the amount stored in batteries installed by consumers and private industry.
- (2) A total of 1 100 megawatts of capacity will be required by Synergy. The number of batteries and the capacity of each storage system will be determined as part of Synergy's investment program. This has been communicated publicly following the announcements on 14 June 2022 at—I note that there is a website here, which is probably not consistent with our practices so I apologise for this—www.brightenergyfuture.wa.gov.au/our-energy-transition/.
- (3) The cost of storage systems will be determined as part of Synergy's investment program and subject to Expenditure Review Committee consideration within the announced \$3.8 billion budget.
- (4) Storage of 1 100 megawatts or 4 400 megawatts could supply 1 100 megawatts for four hours or 550 megawatts for eight hours as part of an operating power system. Synergy's storage is being built as part of Synergy's decarbonisation program. The Australian Energy Market Operator manages the operations of the south west interconnected system, and consumers and private industry are also installing storage. The idea that Synergy is the only operator in the SWIS misunderstands the electricity system. Please note that no electricity system in the world can operate without generation, and the WA government and AEMO are not allowing or planning for that to occur.