

PUMPED HYDRO — COLLIE

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

I refer to the joint media statement of 14 June 2022 from the Premier and the Minister for Energy entitled “State-owned coal power stations to be retired by 2030 with move towards renewable energy”, which notes Synergy and the Water Corporation undertaking analysis to determine the feasibility of a pumped hydro project in Collie; and to answers to my questions without notice 420 and 441 of 9 and 10 May 2023 respectively.

- (1) Have any of the following groups registered an interest in, submitted a proposal for, or engaged with any departmental or ministerial officer relating to the development of a pumped hydro project in Collie —
 - (a) the Frederik Suhren, Kevin Reynolds and Brian Burke-led Pump Hydro Collie group;
 - (b) the Seven Group as an entity, or officers representing the Seven Group; and
 - (c) the Jemena Group?
- (2) If yes, what formal or informal engagement has occurred with each group, on what dates, and with whom?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question, although I note that he missed out reading part of question (1)(b) that I have before me.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas: It was just repeated.

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: Yes. In any event, the following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy.

- (1)–(2) Synergy and the Water Corporation are undertaking analysis of potential locations to determine the feasibility of a pumped hydro project in the south west interconnected system. Pump Hydro Collie and Jemena submitted proposals to Synergy in response to a general expression of interest from 22 June to 15 July 2022 for storage opportunities across the SWIS. Pump Hydro Collie presented to Synergy on 13 September 2022. Neither of these proposals have progressed further. Pump Hydro Collie briefed the Minister for Energy on 22 October 2021 regarding a pumped hydro project, with attendance by Mick Murray and Frederik Suhren from Pump Hydro Collie, James Riordan from Griffin Coal and Daniel Smith, then with CGM Communications. Jemena briefed the Minister for Energy on 10 June 2020 and 10 August 2021 regarding a pumped hydro project, with attendance by Frank Tudor and Sami Zouad, both from Jemena. Briefings from both companies were general in nature, regarding their proposals. I cannot comment regarding any other agency or ministerial office engagement on these or any other projects.