

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — COLLIE FUTURES SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

731. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the \$1 million grant to Sunshot Energy to undertake a first stage feasibility study into battery and hydrogen prospects for Collie, and ask:

- (a) Has the first stage feasibility study been completed yet;
- (b) If the study has not yet been completed, when is it expected to be finished;
- (c) Was there a tender process for this work, and if not, why not;
- (d) If there was a tender process, please list all applicants;
- (e) How was Sunshot Energy chosen for the task; and
- (f) Will the Minister table details of how Sunshot Energy planned to use the grant money, and if not, why not?

Mr D.T. Punch replied:

- (a) No, the feasibility study has not yet been completed.
- (b) Stage 3 of the feasibility has yet to commence. A completion date will depend upon a commencement date for Stage 3.
- (c) State Government Funding was awarded as a result of a competitive grant funding process, rather than a tender process.
- (d) N/A
- (e) As above.
- (f) Sunshot Energy was approved funding to undertake three stages of work; the first two stages, Stage 1 and 2 examined the commercial viability of a Big Battery in the Western Australian Wholesale Energy Market (WEM), and the market opportunity for a Big Battery supported by renewable energy. The total grant funding allocated to these first two stages of work was \$200,000. These Stages have been completed. Stage 3 is intended to support a study into the feasibility of a renewable energy and storage hub centred around a hydrogen electrolyser and ammonia-urea fertilizer plant.