

GRIFFIN COAL — CONSULTANTS

**1301. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:**

I refer to my question without notice 1273 asked yesterday, 18 October, revealing that yet another external consultant, Ashurst, is advising the government on the foreign-owned, insolvent Griffin Coal.

- (1) Does the partnering arrangement include a contract or partnering contract that was awarded to Ashurst to work with the State Solicitor's Office; and if so, please table that contract?
- (2) If yes to (1), did the SSO publicly register its tender for specialist legal services in relation to Griffin and via what mechanism or format, and was it publicly advertised to allow for expressions of interest and applications from other consultants and advisers?
- (3) If no to (1), what formal legal relationship exists between the SSO and Ashurst in relation to legal advice on Griffin Coal, and please table the documentation of that relationship?
- (4) From 2 December 2022 to date, what is the total of payments made to Ashurst under this partnering arrangement, and what invoices has Ashurst sent to the SSO to provide the specialist legal services?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) An answer cannot be provided within the time available today. A response will be provided on the next sitting day.