

GRIFFIN COAL — TREASURY COMMERCIAL ADVISORY UNIT

862. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:

I refer to the commercial advisory unit within Treasury to assist the government in the consideration of emerging priorities, including assistance in and around the future supply of coal and the state's ongoing support for the insolvent Griffin Coal. Given the abandonment of proposals around Griffin's mine site to develop pumped hydro, and claims by former member for Collie–Preston and cabinet minister, Hon Mick Murray, that taxpayers are on the hook for about \$400 million for rehabilitation, I ask the following.

- (1) Has the commercial advisory unit been tasked with identifying risks to government if Griffin Coal does not have the resources to take on the rehabilitation of the mine?
- (2) Is any advice that the Treasurer been given consistent with the advice given to the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation on 1 September 2023; and, if so, will she make public the potential costs to Western Australia taxpayers?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) These are complex issues. As we seek the transition to cleaner, greener fuel sources, there are many complex negotiations and arrangements in place. Treasury always highlights any risks or contingent liabilities through the documents it produces, whether it be the budget papers or the *Government mid-year financial projections statement*. I turn to the advice to government. As I said, there continue to be ongoing negotiations and discussions about how we transition and support Collie in the meantime to make sure we have a fuel load for our energy system. I remember that the opposition was going to shut down Collie power station by 2025; that was its policy. There was no transition plan, and I am not sure what it was going to do with rehabilitation. We have a very clear, steady policy as we support the transition. In the meantime, we, of course, support the energy network to make sure we have stable and secure power supply over the longer term.