

COAL21 INITIATIVE

**267. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development:**

In reference to the Gallop government's Coal Future Strategy, in particular the section that commits the government to conduct a feasibility study into establishing a Clean Coal Centre of Excellence in Collie, will the minister please provide advice on the following -

- (1) Is the Gallop government aware of the COAL21 initiative, a collaborative partnership between federal and state governments, the coal and electricity generation industries and the research community, aimed at fully releasing the potential of advanced technologies to reduce or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of coal?
- (2) Why has the Gallop government, either through its departments or Western Power, chosen not to become a participant in COAL21?
- (3) Has the government considered becoming a participant in the initiative?
- (4) If the government has not considered, and will not consider, becoming a participant in the initiative, why not?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. The Government is aware of the COAL21 initiative.
- (2)-(4) The Western Australian Government is an observer on COAL21. Western Power is also represented on the board of the Cooperative Research Centre for Coal in Sustainable Development. The Cooperative Research Centre for Coal in Sustainable Development is a participant in COAL21. It should also be noted that the amount of coal-fired generation is far greater in eastern Australia than it is in Western Australia.

One can argue about whether that is relevant, but it is clearly a very important issue in the east. Western Australia believes that the current level of involvement in COAL21 is adequate.