

GRIFFIN COAL — TREASURY COMMERCIAL ADVISORY UNIT

**863. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the Treasurer undertake to inform herself of the risks to the Western Australian taxpayer if Griffin Coal is unable to perform the rehabilitation?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

To be honest, mine rehabilitation is an issue across the state. It is something all governments face and will continue to face. It is a constant challenge when the state deals with mining companies, in particular at the end of the useful life of those mines or at the end of the operation of those mines. It is an ongoing issue that the state government has to handle, and we handle it in a sensitive and appropriate way, with both the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. If there are risks to taxpayers, these will be shown in the budget papers and midyear review because there is an obligation of Treasury to do so. That is what happens.

Turning to how we handle this mine compared with other mines around the state —

**Mr R.S. Love:** Minister, are you undertaking to put a figure in the midyear review in terms of risk?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I have said, and I continue to say it, that there is a role to highlight risk—contingent liabilities and risks. That is what happens. Going through the budget papers—I was just looking at budget paper No 3 for 2023–24, actually—there is a whole range of different risks. It is the role of Treasury to highlight risks, and people can then inform themselves of them. That is what happens.

**Mr R.R. Whitby** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Pardon?

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! That question is becoming repetitive. Minister, in response, please.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** As I said, if there are acknowledged risks that Treasury believes exist, it will highlight them in the appropriate documents. Leader of the Opposition, there are risks up and down the state. As Treasurer, at every step there is a risk, but we manage those —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Geez, honestly!

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** If the Leader of the Opposition really wants to go to the finances of the state, he is from a National Party that bankrupted the state. Do members know what the biggest risk is? I tell members what: if Treasury was going to do its job on risk, it would have a whole section saying that the election of the Liberal and National Parties was the biggest risk to the state's finances that anyone could perceive.