

GRIFFIN COAL — GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Dr D.J. HONEY: Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Liberal Party.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Almost, Madam Speaker!

The SPEAKER: Sorry—I went back in time!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am not sure—it could be back; it could be forward!

152. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's announcement dated 1 December 2023 regarding the decision to provide \$220 million to Griffin Coal.

- (1) In the interest of public accountability, will the Premier agree to table documents showing the rationale for the government's financial assistance and a breakdown of how it has been applied; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Did the government include Griffin Coal's parent company's debt in its consideration of assistance; and, if so, why?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) As the member will be aware, I provide regular updates by way of brief ministerial statements in relation to the work that we are doing to ensure that Western Australia, including industry continues to have a supply of electricity for the foreseeable future. We provide as much information in those updates as possible. A lot of these conversations with the companies involve commercial-in-confidence matters, so it creates an awkward dynamic: we want to be accountable and transparent to the people of Western Australia while also respecting the rights of private partners to have a level of commercial confidentiality. From that perspective, I am not in a position to provide the member with all the details that he is looking for. Suffice to say that we are doing two things. First, we are making sure that the owners of the Griffin mine are receiving an appropriate price for their coal so that they can continue to operate; otherwise, they will simply walk away and that, of itself, would be a bad thing. The other thing we are doing is working with the owners of the Bluewaters power station on their relationship with Griffin to ensure that they can continue to provide power to not only Synergy, but also their private customers.

This is all part and parcel of the journey that we are on; that is, we need to make sure that we keep the lights on as we transition away from coal as part of our renewable energy future. It will not always be smooth. It will not always be linear, but it will be managed appropriately so that we do two things. The first is to maintain energy security in Western Australia, and the second is to make sure that electricity bills are affordable for Western Australian households.