

MUJA POWER STATIONS

**222. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to the minister's announcement today that he has accepted all the recommendations from the "Reforms to the Reserve Capacity Mechanism" report, including retiring 380 megawatts of state-owned generation capacity by 1 October 2018.

- (1) After spending \$330 million on the refurbishment of Muja A and B, does the minister now plan to close it and its 240-megawatt capacity?
- (2) If the minister is going to close it, why did he say in 2013 that, after completion, it will be sold?
- (3) How many jobs will be lost in Collie due to this policy?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) Yes, I did make those announcements. Shortly, I will direct Synergy to retire 380 megawatts of installed capacity. I also indicated that I look forward to Synergy recommending what mix of plant that is composed of. The member jumped to the conclusion that it would automatically be Muja A and B. I find the member's criticism of us refurbishing Muja A and B very strange, given that it was brought on board during the commitment to reopen Muja A and B after the explosion on Varanus Island, and it helped rescue the state's electricity supply. We went on to refurbish Muja A and B, which employed a large number of people in the member's electorate, and it still does, both in the operation of the mine and in the operation of the plant. I find it very strange that the member is criticising us for reopening the plant. He should tell his electorate that that is the case.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** Are you closing it?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Yes; let me get to the question. Right now Muja A and B is one of Synergy's most profitable plants. As long as it is one of the most profitable plants, the answer is no. I indicated, as is set out in the report, that Synergy will come forward and indicate to me the mix of fleet that adds up to 380 megawatts that we will close in 2018. I look forward to that information.