

GRIFFIN COAL — GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

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

I have a supplementary question. Surely the public has the right to know where that \$220 million is going beyond simply a single-line lump-sum payment?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I absolutely respect the right of the Western Australian taxpayer to have as much information as possible to ensure accountability, and that is a principle that I have stood by throughout my entire public life. The reality is that we need to continue to make sure that we keep the lights on. Energy security is an important element of what we do in government, so we make tough decisions. One of the decisions that we have made here is to ensure that we keep the Griffin Coal mine and the Bluewaters power station operational. We are doing that with as much disclosure and transparency as possible while respecting the rights of the private partners to maintain commercial confidentiality.