

PUMPED HYDRO — COLLIE

739. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to my question without notice 498 asked on 16 May 2023, and the joint media statement of 14 June 2022 from the Premier and the Minister for Energy titled “State-owned coal power stations to be retired by 2030” detailing Synergy and Water Corporation undertaking analysis to determine the feasibility of a pumped hydro project in Collie.

- (1) What is the status of both the Synergy and Water Corporation studies into the feasibility of pumped hydro in Collie?
- (2) What external-to-government contractors or consultants have been contracted by both Synergy and Water Corporation in the course of the analysis, and under what financial terms?
- (3) Has the minister or his staff received progressive feedback on either of the studies; and, if so, on what dates and in what format?
- (4) Has a completion date for both studies been determined; and, if not, why not?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

I have this one! I thank the member for some notice of the question and answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Energy.

- (1) Collie is one of several locations under consideration to determine its suitability and commerciality for pumped hydro long-duration storage, with investigations being jointly progressed by Synergy and the Water Corporation.
- (2) Synergy has engaged consultants with relevant expertise under standard procurement arrangements. Water Corporation has provided technical support.
- (3) The minister is provided updates through standard communication channels.
- (4) The feasibility stage can last between 12 to 24 months depending on the sites selected for further investigations.