

COOK GOVERNMENT — ENERGY POLICY

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy) [1.16 pm]: I am pleased to provide the house with an update on Western Australia's readiness to transition from coal to a renewable energy future. Last year, the government committed to retiring all state-owned coal-fired power stations by 2030. That is almost 1 200 megawatts of generation capacity leaving the state's main grid, the south west interconnected system. The retirement commitment was underpinned by a comprehensive \$3.8 billion plan to replace the existing generation and support the Collie community during the transition.

Over the past few months, Synergy has made great progress in delivering some of the biggest components of our energy transition plan. There has been a series of significant battery energy storage system milestones. The incoming capacity from Synergy's batteries now includes 100 megawatts from Kwinana battery stage 1, which is already operating and proving to be a valuable addition to the energy fleet; 200 megawatts from Kwinana battery stage 2, which is under construction and expected to be complete by the end of next year, ready to help with the 2024–25 summer peak demand; and 500 megawatts from Collie battery stage 1, which will be WA's biggest battery, estimated for completion in 2025. Contracts for its development were announced last month.

Collectively, these batteries will take the SWIS from zero megawatts of large-scale battery capacity to an 800-megawatt project pipeline that will be in place by the end of 2025. This demonstrates the Cook government's resolve, as well as its responsible planned approach, to meet its 2030 coal retirement commitment. Of course, those are just Synergy's projects that will enable retirement of its own coal fleet. The private sector has a much greater role to play in our state's wider energy transition. Recently, we have seen announcements for additional battery energy storage systems from Neoen, for a 219-megawatt battery in Collie; and Alinta, for a 100-megawatt battery in Wagerup. I also expect another will be announced shortly. These battery energy storage systems will play a key role in the state's decarbonisation efforts, storing excess renewable energy generated in the day and discharging during times of high demand. On the SWIS, our peak demand periods are short and sharp each evening, sometimes as little as one hour and up to a maximum of four. Batteries are an ideal tool for meeting this energy system need.

There is a vast amount of effort and investment underway, with projects that will transition us from coal to a clean and green energy future.