

DOMESTIC GAS SUPPLY — SANTOS SHUTDOWN

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

I have a supplementary question. Does the rapid impact of this gas production shutdown highlight the tightness of WA's domestic natural gas supply, which will confound power supply reliability when the government shuts down coal-fired power stations in Western Australia by 2030?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am at a bit of a loss here. You and your former leader Zak Kirkup were out there standing up and saying you were going to shut it down in three years from now! That is what you were doing. I remember watching it. Zak and the member for Cottesloe were out there calling for it all to be closed. Had you been elected in that election, we would be only two years away from the closure. That was your policy. Now you come in saying something totally contrary and you think no-one notices. The thing about you is that people do notice, and that is probably why they do not cover anything you say!

We will carefully manage, over the course of the rest of this decade, how the system evolves. Obviously in Western Australia, we will continue to use gas. We will phase out coal for a range of reasons. Essentially, the way that renewables come onto the grid each and every day is inconsistent with coal-fired power. The fact is that coal-fired power is not meant to ramp up and down each and every day, so the coal-fired power stations are not working in the way they were traditionally meant to. There are other alternatives; renewables are coming on at a massive rate each and every day. We will continue to have a gas supply that provides the balance in our system.

Visitors — Bassendean Primary School Parents and Citizens Association

The SPEAKER: On behalf of the member for Bassendean, I would like to welcome to the Legislative Assembly today members of the Bassendean Primary School Parents and Citizens Association.