

GRIFFIN COAL — LIQUIDATOR

1017. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade:

I refer to the answer to question without notice 992, asked yesterday, on the appointment of administrators and receivers to the insolvent Griffin Coal in September 2022 in which the government acknowledged that Treasury officials had met with Sternship Advisers about Griffin Coal.

- (1) What contract or contracts, if any, did Treasury or the government have with Sternship Advisers when the assistant Under Treasurer for agency budgeting and governance met with it in February and April 2023?
- (2) What was the value of any contracts the government had with Sternship Advisers in relation to Griffin Coal and what payments have been made to it in 2023 in relation to Griffin Coal?
- (3) Has Sternship Advisers had any previous contracts with the McGowan or Cook governments in relation to the coal industry; and, if so, what were the conditions and value of the contracts?
- (4) Has Sternship Advisers advised the government how to remedy the crisis at Griffin Coal; and; if so, what was that advice?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

Thanks, President. It is not even Thursday! I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some notice of the question.

- (1) Sternship Advisers was engaged from October 2022 to July 2023 to provide a commercial facilitation service between commercial parties related to Griffin Coal and strategic advice to government. That advice is confidential and commercially sensitive.
- (2) The total value of contracts in relation to the coal industry, including Griffin Coal, is \$626 143.96, excluding GST. In the calendar year 2023, Sternship Advisers was paid \$195 295, excluding GST.
- (3) Sternship Advisers was engaged from July 2019 to July 2022 to provide advice on the coal industry to government. Sternship was paid \$176 500 for this contract.
- (4) See the answer to (1).