

COLLIE COAL STOCKPILE

**502. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) What is the current Collie coal stockpile?
- (2) What is the reason for the level of the stockpile?
- (3) Has the Government requested that coal suppliers reduce production?
- (4) Is it the Government's intention to replace long-term coal contracts with short-term contracts when they fall due over the next few years?
- (5) For how much longer will coal be delivered to the Kwinana power station?
- (6) What will be the monthly rate of coal delivery to Kwinana for the next 12 months?

**Hon N.F. MOORE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Western Power's stock of coal is 1.06 million tonnes.
- (2) The stockpile level is caused by two factors: First, relatively poor availability of Western Power coal-fired generators, including at the new Collie power station; and, secondly, lower than anticipated sales of electricity by Western Power.
- (3) No; the Government has not requested that coal suppliers reduce production. Western Power has advised both coal companies that it is unable to store additional coal.
- (4) Western Power's current coal contracts do not expire until 2010. Western Power will review its coal requirements and formulate new contracts when required, based on the market outlook for Western Power and the competitiveness of coal as a fuel.
- (5) With improved performance at Collie power station, it is likely that coal can be phased out of Kwinana power station in 2003.
- (6) Monthly deliveries depend on stockpile levels at Kwinana. Deliveries are likely to be in the range of zero to 30 000 tonnes a month.