

GRIFFIN COAL — LIQUIDATOR

1044. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade:

I refer to the minister's answer to my questions without notice this week and in August on consultants paid by the government to advise on the insolvent Griffin Coal.

- (1) Can the minister now confirm that his government has paid Ad Astra Corporate Advisory \$286 869 and Sternship Advisers \$626 143.96, and signed a contract to pay KPMG \$240 000 for advice on Griffin Coal?
- (2) If no to (1), what are the correct totals, and has any other company been contracted or paid to advise the government on Griffin Coal?
- (3) Given that Sternship Advisers was engaged until July 2023, what commercial facilitation did it provide or achieve between commercial parties related to Griffin Coal?
- (4) What solutions has Sternship Advisers provided to resolve the ongoing crisis at Griffin Coal, apart from more and more taxpayer handouts in financial assistance grants and process agreements, and were those solutions worth \$626 143 or just the 96¢?
- (5) What has been Treasury's reaction to the performance of Sternship Advisers up until July 2023, and did it condemn or endorse that performance?

The PRESIDENT: I note it was a very long question.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

It was indeed a very long question, President. You will be very grateful to know that the answer is not as long!

I thank Hon Dr Steve Thomas for some notice of the question. I note that the information requested by the member is available in the *Report on consultants engaged by government*, tabled regularly in the Parliament.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation has engaged Preston Consulting to provide advice on rehabilitation matters.
- (3)–(4) As stated on multiple occasions, advice provided to government on the coal industry by Sternship Advisers is confidential and commercially sensitive.
- (5) Sternship Advisers was contracted by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, not the Department of Treasury.