

GRIFFIN COAL — LIQUIDATOR

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

I refer to my questions without notice 584, 665 and 686 of June 2023, the answers to which revealed the staggering 20 per cent blowout in liquidator grants, in addition to the unprecedented \$19.5 million grant to the receivers and managers of the insolvent Griffin Coal.

- (1) What is the maximum amount the government is prepared to put into Griffin Coal to keep it alive?
- (2) What is the maximum length of time these payments can or will be made?
- (3) When will the handouts to Griffin end?
- (4) Given that the government has repeatedly said that a new entity will manage the Griffin Coal assets, at what stage is the negotiation for a new entity and when will we get some public clarity on it?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) The state government has provided support to stabilise Griffin Coal operations to ensure energy system security for Western Australia and certainty for the Collie workforce and community. Government is committed to transparency and will continue to provide further updates as necessary, noting that this matter is commercially sensitive and there are limitations on what can be shared. Government remains of the firm belief that Griffin Coal’s financial difficulties should be resolved through a commercial agreement with its customers based on paying a price for coal that supports the stable operation of the mine. Treasury has appointed Ad Astra Corporate Advisory to assist the government with the discussions with commercial parties with a view to facilitating this outcome. Those discussions remain ongoing.