

GRIFFIN COAL — CONSULTANTS

1391. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to my questions without notice 1273 and 1301 of 18 and 19 October 2023 on the partnering arrangement between the State Solicitor's Office and Ashurst for the provision of legal advice relating to the foreign-owned and insolvent Griffin Coal.

- (1) In the retaining of Ashurst by the SSO to advise on the insolvent Griffin Coal, who or whom wrote the legal brief?
- (2) When was the legal brief signed off, and who were the signatories to the brief?
- (3) What are the terms of the retainer between SSO and Ashurst, and is there a cap or limit on potential billings by Ashurst?
- (4) As at November 2023, how many Ashurst employees or operatives are engaged in or contributing to the partnering arrangement for the provision of legal services for Griffin Coal?
- (5) What is the frequency of the billings and invoice structure and the process that Ashurst applies to the partnership arrangement relating to Griffin Coal?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General, I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Attorney General.

- (1) The State Solicitor's Office.
- (2) On 2 December 2022.
- (3) As the member was previously advised, the State Solicitor's Office and Ashurst are providing legal services under a partnering arrangement. The value and duration of the Ashurst agreement is dependent on the legal services required and the allocation of legal services between the State Solicitor's Office and Ashurst, as determined by the State Solicitor's Office.
- (4) Eighteen solicitors from Ashurst have worked on various issues relating to this matter.
- (5) Bills are issued at the end of each month in which Ashurst undertakes work on this matter,.