

COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS — COLLIE

Petition

HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition) [1.01 pm]: I present a petition containing 11 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the Honourable President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned are opposed to the unfair and discriminatory treatment of long-term contractor employees at coal fired power stations in the Collie area.

On the 14th of June 2022 the State Government announced retirement dates for the coal fired power stations in WA. The Government and Synergy have both committed to a “Just Transition” for workers affected by the closures and to a certain extent non-Synergy full time, long term embedded contract employees have been receiving training under this scheme. However, there is a considerable discrimination in other areas against the contract employees. Some of the contract employees have been working onsite for over twenty years and some have had to change from Synergy to Contract employee status due to privatisation schemes implemented by Synergy.

Currently there are large differences between the financial payments and opportunities provided to Synergy personnel compared to embedded contractor employees.

We therefore ask the Legislative Council to support and recommend to the Government that

1. Embedded contractor employees be given the same redundancy entitlement amounts as Synergy employees under the Synergy Site Enterprise Agreement 2022 section 2.2.3 which provides twelve weeks pay plus three weeks for every full year of service.
2. Redundancy payment preference be given to those who wish to change jobs or proceed to early retirement leading up to the Unit retirements.
3. Retention payments offered to Synergy employees also be offered to embedded contractor employees to encourage a stable workforce in the time leading up to closures of Synergy plant.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 2719.]