

SOUTH WEST INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM — CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE CORPORATION

905. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy

I refer to today's media release from the Premier and Minister for Energy announcing up to \$3 billion in concessional loans and equity investments to WA through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation from the federal government for transmission upgrades in WA.

- (1) What percentage of the upgrades to the south west interconnected system will be undertaken by Western Power under this scheme?
- (2) What will be the state-to-commonwealth cost mix on any upgrades to the SWIS?
- (3) Will any commonwealth expenditure on transmission upgrades to the SWIS be a concessional loan or an equity investment or some other financial mechanism, and what total debt or equity will Western Australia owe the commonwealth government?
- (4) Will all the new lines be 500 kilovolts, as indicated in the *SWIS demand assessment*, released in May?
- (5) What is the total cost of the required transmission construction for both the SWIS and the north west interconnected system?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Energy.

- (1) The Cook government is committed to working with industrial users to explore investment approaches in the state-owned south west interconnected system. Following the release of the SWIS demand assessment in May, consultation with industry is progressing to inform the network investment approach, including mechanisms for industry contributions and third party investments.
- (2) The commonwealth and state governments, along with the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, as administrator of Rewiring the Nation, will work together to determine the cost mix and funding mechanisms for specific network projects on the SWIS and the north west interconnected system.
- (3)–(5) This information will be determined as part of the work described in (1) and (2).