

GRIFFIN COAL — LIQUIDATOR

986. 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 and 882 of August 2023 that revealed the blowout in liquidator grants, now totalling \$27.3 million, to the receivers and managers of the insolvent Griffin Coal.

- (1) On what date was the additional \$4.1 million of taxpayers' money provided to the receivers and managers of the insolvent Griffin Coal?
- (2) On what dates did the drawdowns occur, what were the specific amounts, and for what purpose and to what entities, individuals, businesses or contractors were the payments made?
- (3) As at 31 August 2023, how many financial assistance agreements have been executed between the state and Griffin Coal since December 2022, and what were the financial values and variations of the additional FAAs and on what dates were they executed?
- (4) Is there an end point to the reckless drip-feed of taxpayers' money to the terminal business model that is Griffin Coal?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some notice of the question. Again, it is a very long question.

- (1) It was provided on 23 August 2023.
- (2) The \$4.1 million that was drawn down on 23 August 2023 funded costs essential for the ongoing operation of the mine, including labour, fuel and maintenance, that were not covered by revenue generated, noting that the customers do not currently pay a price for coal that supports the stable operation of the mine. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet disbursed the amount following KPMG's analysis of the shortfall.
- (3) The first financial assistance agreement was executed on 11 January 2023. An amended version of this agreement was executed on 19 May 2023. A further financial assistance agreement, termed the process agreement, was executed on 14 August 2023.
- (4)–(5) 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. The government remains of the firm belief that Griffin Coal's financial difficulties should be resolved through commercial agreement with Griffin Coal's 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.