

SOUTH WEST INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM — SOLAR ENERGY

771. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:

I have a few of these questions, so apologies for the repetition.

I refer to solar energy access for regional and rural households on the south west interconnected system.

- (1) Why is the supply allocation 63 amps in Perth when rural properties are left with a significantly lower supply allocation of 32 amps?
- (2) Does the minister expect that the uptake of solar panels in regional properties will decrease?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

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

- (1) Customers have paid for the supply allocation they receive. The State Energy Commission adopted the standard supply definition in the 1950s and 60s when many rural towns had their own generation and the state government provided the country town assistance scheme to subsidise the higher cost of electricity supply. Many of the electricity systems in these areas were developed by local governments, and the electricity supply allocation reflects these regional network configurations. Western Power's cost per connection in regional areas significantly exceeds that of metropolitan Perth.
- (2) There is no technical reason for the installation of solar panels in regional areas to decrease, and the government expects customers to continue to install distributed energy resources. However, the government cannot presuppose the actions of private companies.