

WESTERN POWER — ADVANCED METERS

**899. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to the installation of advanced metering by Western Power.

- (1) Are any of the advanced meters that are being installed by Western Power capable of controlling energy use within residential properties by the network operator?
- (2) Is Western Power able to shut down solar systems using advanced meters if network conditions require such an action?
- (3) Are advanced meters being installed by Western Power capable of controlling electricity use by specific appliances in customers' households?
- (4) If no to (3), are there currently any plans to investigate the installation of meters with the capability of controlling specific appliances within households in the future?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

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

- (1) No. Western Power's advanced meters are digital meters, which typically have a communication device installed. Advanced meters can automatically and remotely read electricity flows and provide early detection of connection faults and supply issues.
- (2) All applications from 14 February 2022 for new or upgraded inverters with a capacity of five-kilovolt ampere or less need to comply with remote emergency management capabilities. This means inverters, including within rooftop solar systems, must be capable of being remotely controlled. Compliance with these requirements enables rooftop solar systems to be remotely turned off in the event of an extreme minimum demand event as directed by the Australian Energy Market Operator to support system stability.
- (3) Advanced meters do not control the energy use of specific appliances. Solar system inverters, however, are connected to the advanced meter for remote control, as detailed in the response to (2). In the future, it is expected that residents may choose to connect additional devices for remote control. This would enable customers to participate in demand-side response programs, which may offer financial benefits for enrolment.
- (4) Not applicable.