

SYNERGY — TARIFF SYSTEM

5192. Ms M.J. Davies to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Synergy's tariff system and differences to charging customers on the A1 Home Plan tariff compared to the K1 Home Business tariff, and ask:

- (a) How many customers in the Central Wheatbelt electorate or associated local government areas are currently charged an A1 tariff;
- (b) Over the same area, what is the average total annual bill amount charged to the customer on the A1 tariff;
- (c) How many customers in the Central Wheatbelt electorate or associated local government areas are currently charged a K1 tariff;
- (d) Over the same area, what is the average total annual bill amount charged to the customer on the K1 tariff;
- (e) If the average energy use of a customer being charged K1 rates is in line with customers in the same area being charged A1 rates, can Synergy or the Minister allow the discriminating tariff to be re-classified;
- (f) Has the Minister ever stepped in to remove discriminating electricity charges that he views as being unfairly applied to Synergy customers; and
- (g) Can customers on the K1 tariff claim a tax deduction for their electricity bills?

Mr W.J. Johnston replied:

- (a) 16,943 customers
- (b) \$1,664.76
- (c) 2,024 customers
- (d) \$2,532.15
- (e) The K1 tariff is not discriminative. The K1 tariff is available to customers who use electricity partly for residential purposes and partly for other purposes. An example is where a customer operates a business from their home. The structure of the tariff attempts to charge the residential portion of the electricity use at a residential rate, and any remaining electricity use at a small business rate. Given that K1 tariff customers use electricity for both residential and other purposes, it is not surprising that the average annual bill for a K1 customer is higher than the average annual bill for a (purely residential) A1 customer.
- (f) No.
- (g) This question seeks a legal opinion.