ELECTRICITY CHARGES

289. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the minister representing the Minister for Energy:

My question is addressed to the minister representing the Minister for Energy, but it can be directed to the Leader of the House today. I refer to Western Power supplying electricity for a separate meter, for example, one servicing a bore on a rural property, when a choice is provided on maintenance charges of between 26c a day for a standard meter and $1.09 a day for off-peak rates.

(1) Why is there such a large difference in the rates?

(2) What is the capital cost, installation cost and lifespan of a standard meter?

(3) What is the capital cost, installation cost and lifespan of an off-peak meter?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for a very interesting question. I am looking forward to finding out what the answer is!

(1) The time of use tariff was initially designed as a demand management initiative to encourage off-peak consumption for larger consumers.

(2) For a standard meter, of the mechanical type used prior to June 2001, the capital cost, excluding GST, is $179.52. The installation cost is $170, and the lifespan is 30 years.

For a standard meter, of the electronic type used post June 2001 as a technology change, the capital cost, excluding GST, is $150. The installation cost is $170, and the lifespan is 15 years.

(3) For an R1 electronic meter, the capital cost, excluding GST, is $560. The installation cost is $170, and the lifespan is 15 years.