

SOUTH WEST INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM

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

I refer to the capacity of the regional south west interconnected system.

- (1) What is the total number of connection points in Western Australia where customers are required to install 32-amp circuit breakers?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of upgrading the SWIS to ensure all Western Australians have the ability to install 63-amp circuit breakers?
- (3) Can the minister advise why Western Power recently announced the investment of \$10.4 million to upgrade parts of the metropolitan grid and how these costs will be passed on directly to the customers who will benefit from the upgrades?
- (4) Can the minister confirm there is a two-tiered electricity grid in Western Australia and some regional Western Australians are not able to access the same standard of electricity supply as those who live in metropolitan areas?

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.

Customers who have opted to maintain the default 32-amp connection are now required to install a circuit breaker for protection at their main circuit board. Customers who wish to upgrade their connection can do so, which has always been the case.

- (1) Western Power has around 1.1 million connections and approximately 170 000 are rural connections where the rural standard connection is 32-amp single phase.
- (2) Western Power is conducting a review of the rural supply allocations of 32-amp single phase 240 volt connections utilising available advanced metering infrastructure, and will report the findings and recommendations to the minister by the end of the month.
- (3) Western Power has invested \$10.4 million following unprecedented load conditions experienced during Christmas 2021. The upgrade involves reinforcement works across multiple substations. These costs are already included in existing budgets designed to maintain and secure the regulated network and will not lead to any increase in costs or costs passed through to customers.
- (4) Customers in regional and metropolitan Western Australia can access the electricity connection that meets their needs. It is up to property owners to determine what their needs may be and to meet the costs of any upgrades they request.