

EAGLE BAY, POWER SUPPLY

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

- (1) Is the minister aware that Western Power cut power supplies to Eagle Bay and surrounding areas for seven hours yesterday, Monday, 29 May?
- (2) Is the minister aware that this extensive power cut caused significant business losses and personal inconvenience and follows the recent severe blackout over Easter and several years of a notoriously unreliable power supply?
- (3) When will the desperately needed infrastructure to upgrade power to this area be installed?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

The Minister for Energy advises as follows -

- (1) Yes, the Minister for Energy has been briefed on the matter. The planned outage allowed Western Power to upgrade ring main switchgear and terminate high-tension cables so that a power supply can be provided to a new subdivision near the corner of Eagle Bay Road and Seaview Rise.
- (2) Residences and businesses in the area were advised in writing of the planned outage on 21 and 22 May. The only shop in the area made arrangements for an alternative power supply. The outage was planned to take place on a weekday during the low season to minimise impact.
- (3) In March this year, Western Power invested \$70 000 in monitoring equipment, which has helped identify long-term solutions for the Eagle Bay area. The corporation will upgrade the system by extending the 22-kilovolt three-phase network by Christmas 2001.