

WESTERN POWER — MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS — WOODVALE

455. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Western Power's maintenance operations in the suburb of Woodvale.

- (1) What expectations should residents have about Western Power's timeliness in replacing and energising power poles and street lights that have been removed under fault conditions?
- (2) Is the minister aware of any incidents in which residents who have been advised that replacing and energising activities should take five business days, have had to wait significantly longer for remedial action?
- (3) Are budgeting or human resourcing constraints at Western Power constraining the government trading enterprise's ability to undertake routine maintenance and replacement activities?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The performance standard for streetlight globe fault repair within the metropolitan area is five days. The Economic Regulation Authority's most recent energy distributors performance report for 2016–17 noted Western Power's average repair time for the approximately 33 000 reported metropolitan streetlight globe faults was 3.45 days against the five day target.
- (2) Yes. Unfortunately this can occur when reported streetlight globe faults are in fact underground cable faults. Approximately 432 cable faults impacted streetlights in 2017–18. Cable faults are significantly more costly and difficult to repair than globe faults and generally take between eight to 12 weeks to identify and fully repair, with larger and more complex projects requiring additional time. The evolution of building standards means Western Power is also required to redesign existing infrastructure to ensure it meets current standards. Woodvale has experienced 49 cable faults impacting multiple streetlights in the area. Western Power anticipates that the remaining underground cable faults affecting streetlights in Woodvale will be repaired by July.
- (3) No.