

WESTERN POWER — SOUTH WEST INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM

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

I refer to the decision by Western Power to enforce the installation of 32-amp circuit breakers in regional areas.

- (1) What immediate actions is the minister taking to ensure solar system installers in regional WA are not run out of business?
- (2) Will the minister direct Western Power to exempt the installation of solar systems from the 32-amp circuit breaker requirement as an interim solution until a comprehensive strategy for the south west interconnected system is determined?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer is based on information supplied to me by the Minister for Energy.

- (1) The minister thanks the solar industry for its continued advocacy on this matter and for raising its concerns with him over recent months. The minister asked Western Power to carry out a thorough review of the situation. Western Power has completed its review and is finalising details of the next steps to be taken, with further details to be provided by the end of the year.
- (2)–(3) No. The requirement for the installation of a circuit breaker for new connections to the grid, both in metropolitan and rural areas, remains critical to provide overload protection for a household if their capacity is exceeded. This critical safety measure prevents significant outages and damage to equipment, ensuring safe and equitable access of power supply for the whole community.