

GERALDTON, DALWALLINU, WUBIN AND BUNTINE — ELECTRICITY INTERRUPTIONS

116. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) How many supply interruptions arising from power quality problems or blackouts have occurred in Geraldton, Dalwallinu, Wubin and Buntine in 2010–11 to date?
- (2) What were the causes of these interruptions?
- (3) What is Western Power doing to ensure that these areas have a reliable, quality power supply?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) Interruptions recorded—that is, the number of outages—for 2010 and 2011 to date are as follows: Buntine, 46 in 2010 and 23 in 2011 to date; Dalwallinu, 80 in 2010 and 47 in 2011 to date; Geraldton, 44 in 2010 and 33 in 2011 to date; and Wubin, 49 in 2010 and 32 in 2011 to date. It should be noted that that data includes outages to a single premises that do not affect the network in an area.
- (2) The outages were caused by a range of factors, including planned maintenance work, equipment failure, lightning strikes and impact from other external forces such as storms and wind-blown debris, bird strikes, possums, stubble burning and car accidents.
- (3) Western Power undertakes routine maintenance and inspection to identify poor performing assets and undertake corrective works. Assets identified with inferior performance are replaced as part of an ongoing asset replacement program. Significant asset issues have been identified for feeder MOR 620 that supplied Dalwallinu. These are targeted for replacement under a major feeder rebuild program planned for 2012–13 and 2013–14. These form part of Western Power's access arrangement.