

WESTERN POWER — SUPPLY ALLOCATION

1025. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Western Power's wholly inadequate media release of 19 October 2022 announcing a trial to increase supply allocation in parts of the south west and wheatbelt regions between now and 31 March 2023.

- (1) Will the government fund the cost for those power users who have already had their amperage downgraded in the trial areas to be upgraded to their previous levels?
- (2) Is this new trial simply allowing energy users in the trial area to keep their current service levels if they alter their electrical circuits while all other regional consumers outside the trial area will have theirs downgraded?
- (3) Will the minister end this costly, discriminatory farce by providing a real solution to regional power discrimination in households and businesses?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

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

- (1) Western Power is developing a procedure to upgrade affected trial-area customers from a 32-amp circuit breaker at its cost.
- (2) No. The trial is piloting an increase to supply allocations to ensure that service levels will not be negatively impacted when customers exceed the standard supply allocation without having applied for an upgrade. As the standard supply allocation has not been reviewed since the 1950s and 60s, it is imperative for the safety and security of the network that a thorough review is undertaken, including a trial period.
- (3) The desktop review found that standardised network design and the deployment of new technology, such as advanced metering infrastructure, can provide an opportunity to further build on the McGowan government's commitment to provide reliable and affordable power to all Western Australians regardless of where they live. It is important that this finding is tested in practice to identify any areas where further network investment may be needed ensuring that changes are managed in a safe and reliable way. After the pilot is completed on 31 March 2023, the results will be reviewed and recommendations made with respect to increasing the standard supply allocation across the entire south west interconnected system.
- (4) Not applicable.