

WESTERN POWER ACCOUNTS, COST OF POLICY INSERT

2530. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Energy

I refer the Minister to the State Labor Government's policy insert under his letterhead, sent out with Western Power accounts and ask -

- (a) what was the cost of printing this document, including the cost of paper;
- (b) what was the additional handling costs of inserting this document into Western Power accounts; and
- (c) who paid these additional costs?

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

The information insert included in Western Power Accounts was an important part of the public communications measures concerning the Government's reform. It provided important factual information on what the Government intentions were for the creation of new electricity organisations and the operation of a new wholesale market.

- (a) The information brochure distributed with the Minister's letter cost a total of \$67,000 to print and distribute. Printing and paper costs were \$50,000.  
  
However, the Chairman of Western Power requested prior to the commencement of the distribution, in December 2003 that the information brochure be accompanied by a letter from the Minister. The cost of the letter was approximately \$56,000 which included distribution.
- (b) The handling costs of the information brochure was approximately \$17,000 (included in the above \$67,000).  
  
Costs were contained by including the information brochure in planned Western Power mailouts.  
  
The handling costs associated with the Minister's letter are included in the amount of \$56,000.
- (c) These costs were paid by the Office of Energy's Electricity Reform Implementation budget.