

POWER BLACKOUTS AND FAULTS - COWARAMUP/MARGARET RIVER AREA

5548. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy

- (1) How many blackouts or faults have there been with the power service to the Cowaramup/Margaret River area in the past 12 months?
- (2) On what dates have these faults occurred and for how long have these disruptions been?
- (3) What was the cause of these disruptions?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

Western Power has provided the Minister for Energy with the following response.

- (1) In the 12 months to 30 September 2007, there were 64 unplanned and 34 planned power interruptions in the localities of Cowaramup and Margaret River (including Augusta, Beenup, Vasse and Wonnerup).

The majority of planned interruptions took place in the Augusta area and allowed Western Power to carry out network improvements, such as changing poles, replacing conductors and installing a new regulator. People affected by a planned outage were given at least 72 hours' notice.

The number of customers affected by each interruption (including planned and unplanned) ranged from one to 1800, out of a total of 3,600 customers in the two localities.

On average, each electricity customer had 3.34 interruptions during the 12-month period to September 2007 (System Average Interruption Frequency Index).

- (2) The duration of interruptions ranged from three minutes to several hours (details in the attached table). The longest outage (about 21 hours) was caused by wind damage during a storm on 1 July 2007.
- (3) Thirty-four outages were planned to allow network improvements. Of the unplanned outages, 18 resulted from equipment failure or pole top fires, 12 from trees (blowing or falling into lines), 10 unknown, 8 lightning, 6 wind, 5 bird and 2 were caused by vehicles. Fire, animal contact and human error each caused one outage.

[See paper 3479.]