

WESTERN POWER — SOLAR INSTALLATIONS — REGIONS

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

I refer to the 32-amp circuit-breakers being installed in some locations in WA.

- (1) In what year was the Western Power standard supply definition first implemented for rural connections?
- (2) Considering that minister has stated that a 32-amp supply is sufficient for modern households, will the minister consider applying the same standard in metropolitan areas to encourage energy efficiency and reduce demand?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) Is the minister committed to ensuring that Western Australians in regional areas have the same opportunities as those living in metropolitan areas in terms of investing in renewable energy, electric vehicles and 100 per cent electrified households?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy.

- (1) The State Energy Commission of Western Australia adopted the standard supply definition in the 1950s and 1960s when many rural towns had their own generation and networks were provided by local governments, with the state government providing the country town assistance scheme to subsidise the higher cost of electricity supply.
- (2) The government is committed to providing customers with a supply allocation they value and are willing to pay for. The supply allocation reflects the capabilities of the installed electricity infrastructure. Both rural and metropolitan customers are receiving the supply allocation they purchased.

However, the minister has asked Western Power to assess the opportunities, risks and consequences of alternative options to managing rural supply allocation and will provide an update on the findings by the end of the year.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes.