

TELECOMMUNICATION OUTAGES

14. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. I note that the Premier mentioned the word “review” several times. Would he agree that despite recommendations from the Wooroloo, Cascade Scaddan and Corrigin and Wickepin bushfire reviews that improving the resilience of regional telecommunications networks should be a priority for the state, absolutely nothing has changed under this state or federal Labor government?

The SPEAKER: That was a comment at the end and it is not acceptable to add that comment.

Point of Order

Ms M.J. DAVIES: With respect, at the beginning of my question was “would he agree”.

The SPEAKER: Yes, and your bit at the end was a gratuitous comment.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Telecommunications—particularly mobile telecommunications—remain an absolute priority, particularly in situations in which residents are facing the impacts of bushfire. We know that information is one of the key things they need to be able to keep themselves safe, so we will work with the federal government around these resilience issues. It is incredibly important. As the member knows, there is nowadays a wide range of communications opportunities through the deployment of retail satellite communications systems, so that may provide a way forward in relation to these things as well.

Again, we will continue to work in this space with the commonwealth to ensure that we have a much more resilient telecommunications system in the context of bushfire or power outage events.