

POWER INTERRUPTIONS, EAST AUGUSTA

**191. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Is the minister able to list each power interruption that has occurred in east Augusta in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many complaints from residents has Western Power received regarding problems with the power supply in east Augusta during this period?
- (3) What is the problem with the power supply in this area?
- (4) How long has Western Power been aware of problems associated with an unreliable power source in east Augusta?
- (5) What plans are in place to address these problems?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank Hon Barry House for some notice of this question.

The answer is quite lengthy, so I table the answer and seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 3779.]

The following material was incorporated —

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**I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.**

- (1) The following sustained power interruptions have occurred in East Augusta over the past 12 months to 26 February 2008.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Cause</b>
27/02/07	4.7 hours	Lightning
09/03/07	4.4 hours	Unknown
16/03/07	2.6 hours	Bird
28/05/07	2.6 hours	Equipment failure
10/06/07	2 hours	Equipment failure
11/06/07	1.7 hours	Equipment failure
01/07/07	23 hours	Wind/wind-borne debris
02/07/07	4.3 hours	Wind/wind-borne debris
02/11/07	1.2 hours	Equipment failure
21/01/08	1.6 hours	Unknown
24/01/08	1.4 hours	Unknown
30/01/08	3.1 hours	Planned Outage for maintenance work
31/01/08	3.1 hours	Vegetation
03/02/08	1.5 hours	Equipment failure
06/02/08	1.1 hours	Emergency shutdown for hazard
08/02/08	1 hour	Emergency shutdown for hazard
21/02/08	2.1 hours	Unknown
26/02/08	1 hour	Bird

Note: This list does not include momentary interruptions (less than five seconds).

- (2) According to its records, Western Power has received one complaint about power reliability from East Augusta, via the office of the Minister for Energy. There have been two complaints about reliability from Augusta as a whole.
- (3) East Augusta is supplied via a long rural feeder, known as the Beenup Feeder. This feeder comprises 780 kilometres of lines, 95 per cent of which are overhead. As such it will always be more exposed to faults than urban feeders, which are much shorter.  
However, Western Power acknowledges there have been a high number of faults associated with equipment failure, and recent problems with current leakage on insulators.
- (4) Western Power included the feeder supplying East Augusta in its '40 Worst Feeder Program' in 2005/06.
- (5) A thorough inspection of the whole feeder was carried out and problems or potential problems identified. Of these issues, 94 per cent have been remedied and the remainder are being attended to.

As part of a separate program, a number of insulators on the high voltage line supplying East Augusta have been replaced with polymeric insulators. This new type of insulator resists the build up of salt and pollutants, reducing the risk of current leakage, pole top fires and television interference.

Insulators on a further 61 poles will be replaced with polymeric insulators as part of a package of work which began on 25 February. This package also includes washing transformers, changing surge arrestors and drop out fuses, checking automatic recloser settings and changing four steel raiser poles.