

STREETLIGHT POLE — ELECTRIC SHOCK — MANDURAH

**158. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Minister for Energy:**

I have a supplementary question. Given that EnergySafety is not the Minister for Energy's responsibility but Western Power is, why will the minister not take responsibility for getting answers to the questions about the pole's activity and guarantee that no other broken light poles are still live and of danger to the public?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:**

Western Power was involved; it supplies energy to the pole. It had reportedly de-energised the pole. It is subject to investigation. I will do the right thing. I will get the facts of who is responsible, who owns the pole, whether there was some error in de-energising it, and why it lay on the ground for five months, before I come to a conclusion. Quite rightly, the previous Labor government separated EnergySafety from Western Power. EnergySafety adjudicates the behaviour of Western Power and all other electricity providers. That is the way it should be. EnergySafety reports to the Minister for Commerce. Inquiries are underway. Western Power has an inquiry underway to find out what happened. When I get that, I will make a decision, but we will wait for the facts before we jump to conclusions.