

WESTERN POWER LINES - DENMARK AND WALPOLE

1126. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the limitations on the capacity of Western Power lines servicing Denmark and Walpole.

- (1) Is the minister aware that this is having a serious impact on the approvals of housing subdivisions in Denmark and Walpole?
- (2) Has Western Power done any planning to address the immediate growth needs in Denmark and Walpole?
- (3) If yes, on what time line will Western Power deliver such a plan?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for some notice of the question. It is a lengthy answer. I table the answer and seek leave to have the answer incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 2281.]

The following material was incorporated -

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Energy has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes, Western Power has advised that this is the case. Western Power has advised that Denmark and Walpole are supplied from the Albany Substation and the network for this area is operating close to capacity, particularly in Walpole. Western Power is currently installing equipment to increase available capacity to this area to maintain good quality and reliability of supply to existing customers. The capacity constraints mean that, in the short term, Western Power is not connecting new customers, as this would compromise the quality and reliability of supply to both existing and the new customers.
 - (2) Yes. Western Power advises that it is examining a number of short and long-term options to further increase capacity. These include the installation of a new distribution line from Albany to Denmark and Walpole, and the construction of a new 132kV zone substation at Denmark. Any arrangements for the funding of increased capacity, including any capital contributions from new customers, would need to be compatible with regulations that govern Western Power's investment in the electricity network.
 - (3) Western Power advises that it can deliver the technical solutions to satisfy the immediate and longer-term requirements of Denmark and Walpole progressively over the next 5 years.
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