

ENERGY — SUPPLY

533. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Energy:

I have a supplementary question. Is the extension for the coal-fired power generator simply to get the government through to the next election without brownouts or blackouts?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order please, members! Before I give the minister the call, members may remember that question time took a very long time yesterday. I have often made the point that I like brief supplementary questions to the point. I have no criticism of the member asking the question, nor do I have any criticism of you, minister, but I ask that ministers in their supplementary response make them as brief as possible.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

Certainly. Again, the member for Vasse needs to start to listen to the answer. We are responding to the request from the Australian Energy Market Operator to give it another tool. It has the capacity market, the non-co-optimised essential system services market and the supplementary capacity market. On top of that, we are giving the Australian Energy Market Operator another tool; namely, it will be able to recall the Muja C6 unit for that summer. We do not expect to have the station used at all over that summer, but why would we not give the extra tool to the Australian Energy Market Operator for that summer? It is only logical.

In conclusion, I remind the member that the Liberal Party said that we would run out electricity last summer, and it said that we would run out of electricity in the middle of the year. It has been saying it every year the government has been in power. It has never been right, so why would anybody think the Leader of the Liberal Party is right today?