

WESTERN POWER, TRANSMISSION POLES, IMPORTATION

445. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Energy

- (1) Will the Minister advise if Western Power is importing transmission poles from South Africa, Queensland and Tasmania?
- (2) What is the cost per pole to Western Power of these imported poles?
- (3) What is the cost to Western Power of Karri poles supplied from South West Western Australian forests?
- (4) Why has the supply of poles from Western Australian native forests decreased markedly since the Labor Government came to power?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (1) Transmission poles are over 15.5 metres in length. Western Power does not source any transmission poles from South Africa, Queensland or Tasmania.
  - (2) See (1).
  - (3) The cost of Karri poles supplied from South West Western Australian forests ranges from \$250 to \$800, depending on height.
  - (4) Since 2001 a significantly greater area of State forest has been reserved, resulting in a drop in the availability of Jarrah and Karri log products.
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