

ELECTRICITY — OUTAGES — KALGOORLIE

**33. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Energy:**

My question is to the Minister for Energy; I am glad he is feeling better. I refer to comments made by the Premier yesterday in his Premier's Statement that one of the main causes of the delays in starting the Synergy generators during the recent Kalgoorlie region blackout was a need to reroute power from another source to allow the Synergy generators to be started.

- (1) Is it not the case that the Synergy West Kalgoorlie power stations are designed for a black start; that is, they do not require power from another source to begin generating power for the network?
- (2) Can the minister explain why the opposition has been told that Synergy had substantially reduced testing the readiness of the Synergy Kalgoorlie power station to save money being spent on fuel, leading to it being unaware of a fault that prevented the generators coming online immediately after the recent blackout?

**Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:**

- (1)–(2) The member is asking me to prejudge an inquiry led by the energy coordinator, in consultation with Western Power, Synergy and the Australian Energy Market Operator, to determine what happened in Kalgoorlie.

**Dr D.J. Honey interjected.**

**Mr R.R. WHITBY:** I am not an electrician and I am not sure of the member's academic qualifications, but I do not think they are in electricity. Let us see. The member knows a lot—I know that—but I am not sure the member has the certificate on the wall. I will wait to see the outcome of that inquiry to determine what happened. We do not know where the fault lay, whether it was in the network or in one of those generators in West Kalgoorlie, but I am not going to jump to conclusions, and I do not think the member should either.