

ELECTRICITY — OUTAGES — COMPENSATION

31. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Energy:

I have a supplementary question.

The SPEAKER: I feel as though you have had three supplementary questions already, but, yes, a supplementary.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your indulgence.

The minister has recognised that, in this case, a \$120 payment for outages was insignificant, and he has doubled it. Will the minister commit to continuing the \$240 payment for power outages into the future?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

The \$240 amount was never meant to be full compensation—not if it is for a household refrigerator in Perth or a business in the regions. There is no way to compensate someone for the inconvenience of a power cut. It is very inconvenient. We may not be able to put a dollar value on the inconvenience to a householder who has to get their kids off to school in the morning. It is incredibly inconvenient. We have never said that this is a compensation, dollar-for-dollar equation. It is a payment of appreciation that a person has been inconvenienced, and we thought it was right and proper, under the circumstances of that extraordinary situation in which the power cuts were prolonged, that the \$120 payment should be doubled to \$240.