

**MUJA–WELLSTEAD POWER TRANSMISSION LINE**

7156. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister representing the Minister for Energy

In relation to the proposed Muja to Wellstead transmission line, I ask;

- (a) what is the current status of the Collie to Wellstead power transmission line;
- (b) how will it be built;
- (c) who will build it;
- (d) when will the planned route be available;
- (e) what consultation has occurred to date with the public;
- (f) have landowners been contacted by the department to discuss the planned route of the line;
- (g) what information has been provided to the landowners; and
- (h) what measures have been taken to ensure it has considered all social, environmental, technical and economic issues to determine whether the proposed transmission line route is still the most suitable option?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

- (a) There has not been a decision to construct a transmission line from Muja to Wellstead. However, to inform the Government's final position, Western Power is undertaking planning and design work funded entirely by the proponent.
- (b)–(c) No final decision has been made.
- (d) The proposed line route is now available and can be found on the Western Power website.
- (e)–(f) As part of Western Power's planning and consultation processes it has met with the affected landowners. In April 2011, community sessions were held in Moodiarrup, Kojonup, Broomehill, Gnowangerup and Borden. Further community sessions were held with Landgate in August 2011 in Moodiarrup, Kojonup, Gnowangerup and Borden.
- (g) The information provided includes and is not limited to:
  - drivers for the project
  - line route options under consideration
  - the preferred line route
  - impact on the electricity network (including an increase in transmission system capacity as a result of the project)
  - potential project timeline
  - community engagement opportunities
  - status and details of design works
  - status and details of environmental approvals, including demarcation of environmentally sensitive areas and flora, fauna and dieback surveys
  - status of preliminary surveys, investigations and works (e.g. visual impact assessment, Aboriginal heritage and ethnographic surveys, agricultural impact assessment and engineering surveys).
  - status of impact assessments and mitigation
  - status and details of the regulatory requirements
  - compensation process
  - where to find information on the Southdown Mine
  - how to provide feedback or receive additional information about the project
- (h) Multiple criteria have been assessed to date, including: social, environmental, technical and economic considerations, risks, opportunities and constraints. Criteria includes:
  - community consultation with interested and affected parties

- key stakeholder consultation (e.g. local government, Department of Environment and Conservation, Conservation Commission, Environmental Protection Authority and Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities)
- network requirements and constraints (e.g. location and age of existing infrastructure, future load requirements)
- statutory frameworks (e.g. Energy Operators Act, requirements set by the Economic Regulation Authority)
- customer requirements (e.g. time constraints set by Southdown Joint Venture)
- future power needs for the region (e.g. by not building a new line route between Muja and Kojonup and instead proposing to swap it with an existing piece of aging infrastructure that is also nearing capacity limits, the number of proposed future transmission lines for the region are reduced, reducing overall social and environmental impacts)