

"ELECTRICITY OUTLOOK", UPDATED EDITION

1340. Mr Murray to the Minister for Energy

I refer to the most recent edition of 'Electricity Outlook' covering the period 2000/1 to 2009/10, published in June 2000, and ask will the Minister advise what progress has been made to have published an updated edition of 'Electricity Outlook'?

Mr RIPPER replied:

Under schedule 7 of the Electricity Corporation Act 1994 Clause 2 (1) 'the corporation must prepare annually forecasts covering a minimum forecast period of 10 years and reports, which give sufficient information to allow interested parties to make proposals in relation to and to participate in any procurement process by the corporation for new generation'.

The context of the report, which has become known as 'Electricity Outlook' is the power procurement process that Western Power is obliged to carry out when significant new generation capacity is required.

In July, during a visit to Collie, I announced the go ahead of the power procurement process for Western Power's new capacity needs for the years 2004/05/06. The next edition of Electricity Outlook will be a key information source for this process. Accordingly, it has to be as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

I have commissioned Mr Bill Heron, as a special adviser to myself on power procurement. Mr Heron has considerable experience in both the energy and finance sectors in Western Australia. He was the inaugural Coordinator of Energy and CEO of the Office of Energy and a former Deputy Commissioner of SECWA and Deputy Under Treasurer. He has been a member of the Boards of the Treasury Corporation and Government Employees Superannuation Board for significant periods.

Mr Heron's first task is to analyse Western Power's latest energy and capacity forecasts to have a full understanding of the assumptions and methodology. This is taking place now. I expect to receive advice from Mr Heron on the forecasts in a few weeks. I will then be in a position to approve the release of the 2001 edition of Electricity Outlook.

While this may mean that the 2001 edition is released in the early weeks of 2002, I am most concerned to have a document that is as accurate and informative as possible, rather than rush to public release a document that may be misleading or not have complete information.