

ENEABBA TO MOONYOONOOKA TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

687. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Western Power's preferred route for the Eneabba to Moonyoonooka transmission line project.

- (1) What compensation, if any, is paid to the Department of Environment and Conservation when a line passes through its reserves?
- (2) What compensation is paid to native title claimants of both finalised and non-finalised claims?
- (3) Does the relevant legislation treat all landowners the same concerning powerline access?
- (4) Why was a study on the effects on broadacre farming by an agricultural consultant not undertaken when considering the transmission line route?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for providing some notice of the question. It is a rather long answer, Mr President. I will table the answer and seek leave for its incorporation in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 3091.]

The following material was incorporated -

1) In 1992 the State Energy Commission of WA (SECWA) and CALM entered into an agreement, titled *Land Use and Compensation Agreement*, which covers all aspects of land use related to transmission lines that are built over CALM owned or controlled land, including compensation. Compensation is calculated based on the cost of re-establishing any vegetation removed because of Western Power's works, the loss of forest products and the cost of supervision to avoid dieback.

2) To date Western Power has not paid compensation related to Native Title. However, it is Western Power's view that such compensation would be assessed in the same manner as compensation on Fee Simple land.

3) The Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979 (Sections 46 and 49) empowers an energy operator (Western Power) to enter any land to carry out its works. A Notice of Entry is required to be served on the owner or occupier (including Native Title holders/claimants) of the subject land prior to entry. Western Power is also bound by written laws, which do provide for permits to be obtained before entry onto some categories of land. Examples where permits are required include:

- Rail Freight Corridor land;
- Dampier-Bunbury gas pipeline corridor land;
- Swan and Canning Rivers; and
- Land classified as a Disease Risk Area.

Written laws also require Western Power to obtain environmental approvals if its works will have an impact on the natural environment.

4) At present, Western Power has selected a kilometre-wide corridor, within which a defined line route will be determined. The effects on farming was an important part of the sustainability assessment used to select the corridor, and was weighted heavily by the community during the consultation process.

An Agricultural Consultant will now be engaged to assess the impacts of the transmission line on farming activities, and the line route will be selected after consultation with individual landowners to avoid or minimise those impacts as much as reasonably possible.

Western Power is currently working with the Midwest Power Line Action Group to select a consultant who will be acceptable to Western Power and the local community, and expects the consultant to start work in early to mid-September.

There will be some impacts on farming activities wherever a transmission line is located. Generally, those impacts are greater on smaller parcels of land. Western power tries to manage its entry to land and construction of works to minimise the impact they have on the landowner. Most of the residual impact is compensated either as:

- physical impact to the land under s120 of the Energy Operators (Powers) Act; or
- for the taking, when Western Power takes an estate or interest in the land entered, under the Land Administration Act as read with the Energy Operators (Powers) Act.

Loss of amenity value due to change in the aesthetic environment is not compensable.
