

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

QUESTION PRIOR TO HEARINGS

Regional Power Corporation (Horizon Power)

Hon Tim Clifford MLC asked:

1) I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, Part 12 Utilities, on page 661, which states that Horizon Power's Asset Investment Program is budgeted to drop by about \$35.2 million in 2019/20.

a) What is the reason behind this decrease in budgeted expenditure?

Answer:

The \$35.2 million in 2018/19 relates to Royalties for Regions funds received to complete the Pilbara Underground Power Project and a grant from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, in turn funded by payments from Chevron Australia as part of the Ashburton North (Wheatstone Project) State Development Agreement, to complete the Onslow Power Project.

b) Has the money been reallocated? If so, where?

Answer:

No. These funds were provided for specific projects that were either completed in 2018/19 or will be completed early 2019/20.

c) Could this \$35.2 million be used to fund renewable energy assets? If not, why not?

Answer:

The remaining Royalty for Regions funds allocated for the Pilbara Underground Power Project has been returned to Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation in line with the funding agreement.

Funds currently allocated to the Onslow Power Project cannot be reallocated. The use of these funds for this project will result in 1MW of Centralised Solar, 1MWh of Centralised Battery, up to 2MW of Rooftop Solar and up to 1MWh of distributed Battery in addition to an efficient gas plant to support baseload.


5/6/19

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