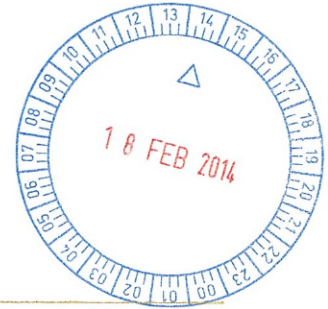




**PUBLIC**

24/02/14



**Hon Mike Nahan MLA  
Minister for Energy; Finance;  
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

Our ref: 62648

Samantha Parsons  
Committee Clerk  
Estimates & Financial Operations  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Parsons

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30 January 2014 in relation to Western Power's appearance at the Estimates & Financial Operations Committee on 28 January 2014.

Please find attached my responses to the requests for supplementary information arising from the hearing.

Yours sincerely

**DR MIKE NAHAN MLA  
MINISTER FOR ENERGY; FINANCE;  
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

Att 18 FEB 2014

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B1: the Hon Paul Brown MLC asked -*

- *Can you tell me why Kalbarri, which had continual usage through summer over a number of years, was not provided with that asset [generators] this year to alleviate any possible poor outcome and;*
- *How many assets does Western Power have around the state that can go to these edge of grid communities particularly through the hotter parts of summer and also winter when there is high electricity usage?*
- *What number of assets do you have that can go to these communities to alleviate problems?*

Answer:

Western Power previously placed generators in Kalbarri to address a network capacity issue affecting electricity supply to the town. The generators previously provided were to augment the supply from the network. They could not support the whole town in isolation. The capacity issue was resolved by transferring some customers from the Kalbarri feeder to the Northampton feeder and as a result the generators were no longer required and were removed.

Western Power does not have any specific generators that could support edge of grid communities. However, Western Power does lease 20 transportable generators that are primarily used to support Western Power's planned outage program of network maintenance and upgrades.

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
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**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B2: the Hon Martin Aldridge asked -*

*My question is whether or not that cost is equalised across local governments? I understand that there will be a cost difference based on the type of lighting and the number of lights that a local government desires.*

Answer:

It is understood that Synergy then bills each local government on the basis of the number and type of streetlights within its local government area. Further information regarding the allocation of streetlight costs to local governments is available from Synergy.

In relation to Western Power's role in the provision of street lighting, we charge Synergy the reference tariff for each streetlight in the Western Power Network. The reference tariff consists of three components:

- (a) a fixed use of system charge which is payable each day;
- (b) a variable use of system charge calculated by multiplying the energy price by the estimated quantity of electricity consumed at an exit point (expressed in kWh and based on the lamp wattage and illumination period); and
- (c) a fixed asset charge based on the type of streetlight asset supplied.

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
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**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B3 the Hon Alanna Clohesy asked:*

*Please provide the table of data you referred to in relation to number pole replacements and reinforcements.*

Answer:

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Wood pole reinforcements	7,436	9,864	6,768	11,421	24,643	48,479
Wood pole replacements	6,936	9,770	10,828	12,633	15,512	17,432

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
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**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B4: the Hon Ken Travers asked -*

*After poles have been reinforced, do you keep stats as to whether there was a failure of a pole because the pole fails above the reinforcement? Can you provide us with the number of poles that you have reinforced?*

Answer:

Western Power investigates all pole failures and keeps information regarding where each pole has failed (ie above or below reinforcement). Western Power also produces a quarterly Network Safety Report for the Minister for Energy and EnergySafety which provides an overview of network safety indicators and includes information relating to pole failures.

There are currently 337,523 reinforced poles on Western Power's network. In 2013 Western Power recorded 17 UAM Nail reinforced unassisted pole failures above the reinforcement.

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B5: the Hon Ken Travers asked -*

*Has that increase in expenditure been incorporated into the mid-year review?*

Answer:

No. The capital program for 2013/14 is being managed at an overall program level. The increase in expenditure for wood poles will be compensated by reallocation across other categories.

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
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**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B6: the Hon Martin Aldridge asked -*

*Page 14 of your annual report breaks down a number of public safety incidents during 2012/13. There were 79 recorded "Fire or explosion caused by Western Power assets". Are you able to provide some detail on the types of incidents, location, costs of the related damage to either Western Power infrastructure or other infrastructure, and to what extent Western Power was involved in compensating third parties as a result of that damage?*

Answer:

See table below

Suburb	Incident Date	Asset related or Interference?	Cause Type	Number of Claimants	Compensation Payments (Total)
Sawyers Valley	9/09/2012	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	6	\$18,988.38
Bayswater	26/09/2012	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Hazelmere	10/10/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Greenough	10/10/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	1	\$2,000
North Perth	16/10/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	3	0
Busselton	18/10/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Mount Barker	20/10/2012	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Nabawa	23/10/2012	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Alfred Cove	28/10/2012	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Green Range	15/11/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	1	\$2,480
Green Range	15/11/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0

Cranbrook	17/11/2012	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Mogumber	17/11/2012	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	5	\$76,724.85
Kalgan	18/11/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Mundaring	19/11/2012	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Dumbarton	20/11/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Busselton	21/11/2012	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	1	\$420.00
Eneabba	3/12/2012	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Wattleup	6/12/2012	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
Donnybrook	9/12/2012	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	1	\$1,189.90
Chidlow	10/12/2012	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
West Swan	18/12/2012	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
Dinninup	20/12/2012	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	0	0
Kingsley	20/12/2012	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	0	0
Wellard	23/12/2012	Interference	Tree-Cutting Activity	0	0
Forrestdale	24/12/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Northam	25/12/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Metricup	28/12/2012	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Nannup	30/12/2012	Asset related	Pole top fire	3	\$10,414.57
Bibra Lake	31/12/2012	Interference	Overhead	0	0
Kalbarri	31/12/2012	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Baldivis	31/12/2012	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	1	0
Mt Barker	31/12/2012	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Manjimup	1/01/2013	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Naval Base	2/01/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Kewdale	2/01/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0



Helena Valley	6/01/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
Yangebup	9/01/2013	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Eastbrook	9/01/2013	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Holleton	10/01/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
Southern Cross	11/01/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Brigadoon	11/01/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Mount Claremont	11/01/2013	Interference	Other (Interference)	0	0
Narrikup	13/01/2013	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Woorree	23/01/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	2	\$9,506.26
Kojonup	24/01/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	2	\$8,404.65
Lennard Brook	26/01/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	3	\$43,102.73
Wanneroo	26/01/2013	Interference	Other (Interference)	0	0
Sawyers Valley	28/01/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Westminster	29/01/2013	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Moonyoonooka	29/01/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Picton	30/01/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
Boonanarring	31/01/2013	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	1	\$11,734.84
Upper Swan	31/01/2013	Interference	Other (Interference)	0	0
Narra Tarra	1/02/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Dardanup	1/02/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Meelon (Coolup)	1/02/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Walkaway	4/02/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
Maddington	5/02/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
Denmark	10/02/2013	Interference	Falling/ Airborne Vegetation	0	0
Heathridge	10/02/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Warwick	11/02/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0

East Picton	12/02/2013	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	0	0
High Wickham	12/02/2013	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	0	0
Beaconsfield	17/02/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	1	\$4,579.02
Australind	17/02/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	1	\$1,354.00
Upper Capel	17/02/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	0	0
West Swan	18/02/2013	Interference	Tree-Cutting Activity	2	0
Glen Iris (Bunbury)	21/02/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Bedfordale	21/02/2013	Asset related	Other (Asset related)	0	0
Westfield	1/03/2013	Interference	Tree-Cutting Activity	0	0
Muradup	4/03/2013	Asset related	Pole top fire	1	\$1,720.00
Coolup	9/03/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Parkerville	11/03/2013	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	0	0
Yarloop	12/03/2013	Interference	Other (Interference)	0	0
Kwinana Beach	18/03/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
Sawyers Valley	4/04/2013	Asset related	Unassisted Conductor Failure	1	\$6,214.07
Bullsbrook	15/04/2013	Interference	Birds/ Animals	0	0
			Total	36	\$198,833.27

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
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**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B7: the Hon Ken Travers asked -*

*Can we get that sliding scale that you were talking about earlier? I do not want individual details of claims, but is the sliding scale something you could provide to us?*

☐ Answer:

The Toodyay settlements are subject to a confidentiality clause which prevents Western Power disclosing this information.

**ESTIMATES & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
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**Western Power**

**28 January 2014**

*Question No B8: the Hon Alanna Clohesy asked -*

*If it is possible to get a sense of what the planned outage was and why it was necessary at that time and why it was necessary from 8:00am to 5:00pm? That is for 17 January [Mount Helena].*

Answer:

The planned outage was cancelled as it was in the vicinity of the Parkerville fire. Western Power is currently undertaking important bush fire mitigation work in Mount Helena and surrounding areas. The program is designed to reduce the fire risk in high risk fire zone. Given the nature and amount of work involved, the work must continue into summer months and cannot be postponed until the weather cools.