QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 631

asked on Tuesday, 15 June 2004

MR LINGARD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to power blackouts over the summer period and the reported update of the power supply system–

(1) How many power failures were experienced between November 2003 and the end of March 2004 in the Beaudesert Electorate?

(2) What areas and towns suffered power blackouts and how many, town by town, in the Beaudesert Electorate?

(3) Of the reported upgrade of the State's electricity network, how much of this has been allocated to the power infrastructure in the Beaudesert Electorate?

(4) Of the total amount to be invested by both Energex and Ergon, how much in actual dollar terms and as a percentage of the overall expenditure will go to towns and infrastructure in the Beaudesert Electorate?

ANSWER:

(1) and (2) ENERGEX and Ergon Energy have advised their systems do not record outages on an electorate or town by town basis. Outages are recorded on a feeder basis and feeders can span electorates and townships.

To attempt to allocate outages on an electorate or town basis involves assumptions and approximations which impact on the meaningfulness of such allocations. It would be a very onerous task requiring significant commitment of resources by ENERGEX and Ergon Energy to undertake this for 36 electorates to produce what would be inexact data.

(3) and (4) ENERGEX and Ergon Energy do not allocate capital expenditure on their electricity networks on an electorate basis. Capital expenditure on the distribution system is invested on a system-wide basis. To attempt to allocate capital expenditure on an electorate basis would involve approximations which would impact on the meaningfulness of such allocations.

In the 2004-05 financial year, ENERGEX has allocated $391.9 million for capital expenditure on its electricity network in south-east Queensland. The $37.5 million announced by ENERGEX in April 2004 is directed to increase ENERGEX's network capacity before the summer season of 2005.