

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 399

asked on Tuesday, 28 March 2006

MR HAYWARD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POLICY (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

What steps are being taken to ensure the reliability of electricity supply in the Kallangur Electorate?

ANSWER:

ENERGEX has invested a record \$658.8 million in its capital works program for the current financial year to deliver a reliable, secure electricity supply to customers.

This includes \$536 million for regulated electricity network capital expenditure, including, sub-station works, transmission feeder related works, distribution feeder related works and includes over \$144 million on customer-initiated works. ENERGEX continues to plan for south east Queensland's future electricity needs.

These works will benefit industry, businesses and families throughout South East Queensland.

This is a 36 per cent increase on the previous financial year capital works budget and contrasts sharply with the days when the Coalition was last in power and spent only \$590 million a year on the entire Queensland electricity network.

The Department of Energy advises that for the current financial year, ENERGEX has invested over \$5 million in capital works in the Kallangur Electorate. Significant projects include:

- installation of the second modular building at Narangba substation.
- replacement of a 40 megavolt amp (MVA) transformer with a new 80 MVA unit at Caboolture Bulk Supply Substation. This project will increase the substation's capacity from 160 MVA to 200 MVA.
- installation of over forty new or upgraded distribution transformers to improve supply to local commercial, industrial, and residential customers.

ENERGEX have also committed significant funding to preventative maintenance. I am advised for the whole of its network, ENERGEX has budgeted approximately \$60 million this financial year to clear vegetation around power lines.

ENERGEX conducts pre-storm feeder patrols of its 33 kilovolt (kV) and 11 kV network. I am advised patrols of the network in the Kallangur Electorate were completed by September 2005 and are programmed to commence in May 2006.

Thermovision inspections were performed on selected high voltage feeders to identify any components at elevated temperatures. Feeder inspections in the Kallangur Electorate were completed by the end of June 2005, with the next inspections programmed by mid 2006.

ENERGEX, through their asset inspection program undertake inspection of assets in the network every five years for evidence of deterioration. Suspect components are repaired as part of the inspection process or evaluated, prioritised and placed into a works program for rectification.

Reliability is also improved by the installation of wildlife proofing on pole-mounted equipment, the installation of line spacers to prevent lines clashing and the replacement of un-insulated lines by insulated Aerial Bundled Cable.