

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 869

asked on Thursday, 25 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

Will he detail works planned this financial year to enhance electricity supply and reliability within my electorate of Mount Coot-tha?

ANSWER:

Reliability of the electricity supply in the Mount Coot-tha Electorate is being enhanced by capital works to reinforce the existing distribution network and by preventative maintenance activities.

During the 2005-06 financial year, ENERGEX has invested over \$5.5 million in capital works to improve and upgrade the electricity network supplying the Mount Coot-tha electorate.

Some of the works include:

- Replacing the 2 existing transformers with a total capacity of 25 megavolt amps (MVA) at Ashgrove substation with two new and more powerful units with a total capacity of 50 MVA. This project is scheduled to be completed by December 2006 at an estimated cost of \$ 4 million.
- Installation of new 11 kilovolt (kV) underground cables. Two such cables were installed from Toowong substation in March 2006 at a cost of \$530,000 and one from Milton substation in July 2005 at a cost of \$340,000. I am advised these new feeders increased the distribution network's capacity and help improve network reliability.
- Investment of over \$1.8 million to install or upgrade 36 distribution transformers.
- CityGrid project - The eastern area of Mount Coot-tha will benefit from the increased network capacity when the \$139.1 million CityGrid project comes on stream later in the year.

For the whole of its network, ENERGEX has budgeted approximately \$60 million this financial year to clear vegetation from around powerlines. I am advised that over the last 18 months, vegetation clearing has been performed in three zone substation areas (Ashgrove, Milton, and Toowong) that impact on the Mount Coot-tha Electorate.

ENERGEX also conducts pre-storm feeder patrols of all its 33 kV and 11 kV network using motor vehicles and/or helicopters. Patrols of the network in the Mount Coot-tha Electorate were completed by September 2005 and are due to commence again in July 2006. Work identified on the patrols is completed on a priority basis.

Thermovision (thermographic) inspections were performed on selected high voltage feeders to identify any components operating at elevated temperatures and therefore being identified as having the potential to fail in service. Identified components are scheduled for maintenance on a priority basis. Feeders in the Mount Coot-tha Electorate were inspected by the end of August 2005, with the next inspections due to commence after June 2006.