QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 159

asked on Tuesday, 26 February 2008

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY (MR WILSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the State Government's obligation and responsibility for providing Queenslanders with a reliable power supply—

Will he advise for the past five years (reported separately) on how many occasions the power supply has been disrupted for more than 30 minutes for both scheduled maintenance and unforeseen disruptions in areas within the Charters Towers Electorate (broken down into (a) date and time the disruption occurred, (b) location of origin of disruption, (c) cause of disruption, (d) regions affected by disruption and (e) the period the power was disrupted)?

ANSWER:

I note that a question in the same (or similar form) has been asked by different members with respect to eight different electorates.

In terms of the details that have been requested, the collation of this information and its presentation according to the format and classifications requested, would consume a substantial amount of organisational resources and time, would be an unduly onerous task and would be a burden on both Ergon Energy and my Department. These resources would be much better applied to the core business of providing reliable electricity services to customers.

However, I can confirm that the Charters Towers Electorate is serviced by the Ergon Energy distribution network and that Ergon Energy takes maintenance of its network very seriously.

I am advised that over the past three years, annual operating and maintenance expenditure has increased significantly from $230 million in 2005-06 to a budget of $271.1 million in 2007-08. Annual capital investment over the same period has increased from $705.4 million to $795.6 million.

I am also advised by Ergon Energy that performance of the Ergon Energy network has also significantly improved. The system average interruption duration index (SAIDI) has reduced by more than 39.53% for Urban feeders, 42.18% for Short Rural feeders and 48.27% for Long Rural feeders.

This indicates substantial improvements in network performance.