

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 478

asked on 7 June 2013

MRS CUNNINGHAM ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY (MR MCARDLE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the current unreliable power supply to residents living in the Boyne Valley—Will the Minister outline any work done to improve reliability of the SWER line in the last two financial years and works proposed for the next two years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question and can advise that most of the 157 customers in the Boyne Valley area are connected to Ergon's 11 kilovolt electricity network. Only 11 customers in the area are serviced by a Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) line which is supplied by the 11 kilovolt network.

Ergon has investigated outages in the Boyne Valley area between June 2010 and June 2013 and identified six significant outages on the 11 kilovolt network. Two of these outages were due to extreme weather events, two were due to vehicular impact and two were due to equipment faults.

Boyne Valley customers supplied by the SWER lines are impacted by outages on the 11 kilovolt network. Ergon identified four significant outages on the SWER network in addition to the six outages on the 11 kilovolt network. Two of these outages were due to severe weather events and the remaining two were due to equipment faults.

The number and type of outages that have occurred in the Boyne Valley area are consistent with any rural line and fall within Ergon's regulated reliability targets. As such, no specific reliability improvement works have occurred on the SWER lines in the past two financial years or are planned for the next two financial years. All work performed on the lines has been routine maintenance or repairs following storms, traffic incidents and equipment faults.