

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 464

asked on 4 June 2014

MR WATTS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY (MINISTER McARDLE)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update of the construction progress, budget and benefits that the Toowoomba Central Substation (Victoria Street) will deliver to the Toowoomba community?

ANSWER:

Ergon Energy's existing Central Toowoomba substation is an aged asset that needs replacing. The \$74 million project involves construction of a new indoor Central Toowoomba substation, upgrading the South Toowoomba substation, and building a double circuit 110kV (kilovolt) connection between the substations.

As part of the Newman Government's strong plan for a brighter future – to grow a four pillar economy of tourism, agriculture, resources and construction and to deliver better infrastructure and planning outcomes – this project will provide for future growth and will provide two high capacity and reliable powerlines into the Toowoomba CBD, catering for the expected load growth in the area.

Ergon Energy has commenced community engagement with key stakeholders and has completed detailed design of the project. Construction of the project has begun, specifically at the South Toowoomba Substation, Central Toowoomba Substation and on the underground section of the connection.

Work commenced on the Central Toowoomba substation site in early April 2014, and construction of the substation is scheduled to be completed in early November 2014. Ergon Energy expects supply via the Central Toowoomba substation will be available from late 2015.

This network upgrade project will have a direct and positive impact on the development of the Toowoomba Central shopping precinct which is a strategic development project for both Toowoomba Regional Council and Queensland Investment Corporation.