Question on Notice
No. 691
Asked on Wednesday, 26 May 2021

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to recent advice from the AEMO that our power grid is rapidly approaching capacity, with nearly 100 percent renewable penetration and that this level of capacity has been known to cause massive instability problems with Germany's power grid—

Will the Minister advise if there is any indication that a 'ramping up' in the frequency of renewables feed in rates at the time, may have exceeded Callide's transmission capacity and triggered a systems overload?

ANSWER

On 25 May 2021, approximately 3,000MW of generation capacity and several transmission lines out of the Calvale 275kV substation in central Queensland tripped and went offline due to an incident at the Callide C Power Station in Biloela, Queensland.

The network and its protection systems responded to stabilise the system.

Thankfully, the response of staff on the day and their protocols and training have ensured that all staff made it home safely to their families that evening.

Formal investigations are commencing across a number of parties, including Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, the Australian Energy Market Operator, who has already issued its preliminary report.

It is important that we allow space for the formal investigations to run their course with integrity. Any speculation about the cause is inappropriate.

We should be patient in awaiting the findings and await full information.

In the meantime, work is underway at Callide to return units to service and get the station operating again.