

Question on Notice
No. 1135
Asked on Wednesday, 26 October 2022

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

Will the Minister advise if Energy Queensland currently has in place a systematic and continuous search and assessment of the most accurate pole testing technology in order to minimise the costly and premature replacement of old, but still serviceable, power poles?

ANSWER

Energy Queensland, through its distribution network subsidiaries Energex and Ergon Energy Network, is committed to delivering Queensland communities a safe, reliable, and affordable electricity distribution network.

Energy Queensland's distribution networks have a program to replace poles based on condition and do not replace poles based solely on age. A cyclic inspection program is undertaken at least every five years to assess the serviceability of power poles, and where poles do not meet serviceability indicators, they are managed and replaced in line with the Queensland Electrical Safety Code of Practice. Serviceability indicators include pole strength, pole location and above and below ground pole conditions.

Energex and Ergon Energy Network's serviceability assessment processes are routinely assessed against industry best practice. Both networks continually monitor the performance of their poles to identify any areas for improvement. Energy Queensland's distribution networks also participate in industry and academic studies to ensure the appropriateness of the distribution network pole replacement program.