Question on Notice No. 320 Asked on Wednesday, 30 March 2022

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

With reference to the Orleigh Park transformer in West End being inundated in 2011, leaving local residents off supply for many days—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the local member at the time raised this issue with the department, (b) what consideration was given to raising it to a flood-proof location between 2011 and 2022 and (c) why did this only happen a decade later after it was inundated again in 2022?

ANSWER

I am advised by the Department of Energy and Public Works that there is no record of formal correspondence as referred to by the Member to the former Department of Mines and Energy which was the relevant department in 2011.

Energy Queensland also confirms that it has no record of this issue being raised with its distribution network subsidiary, Energex, by the local member at the time.

I was first made aware of the inundation of the Orleigh Park transformer at West End on Tuesday 1 March 2022, when I was contacted on behalf of the local community by the local Federal Member for Griffith, the Honourable Terri Butler MP.

As a part of the restoration of electricity supply, Energex's standard practice is to ensure inundated equipment is cleaned, tested and re-commissioned where possible, or replaced in the same location where assets failed testing.

Following the 2011 flood event, the Energex transformer located in Orleigh Park, West End was cleaned, passed testing and was re-commissioned.