

Question on Notice
No. 1307
Asked on Tuesday, 24 October 2023

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

With reference to a large-scale power outage recently affecting residents in the North and Far North impacting areas from Magnetic Island, Townsville, Ingham, Cardwell, Charters Towers, Julia Creek and up to parts of the Gulf, Ergon Energy stated the blackout was caused by an error with 'Powerlink's transmission network'. Noting North Queenslanders expect a reliable electrical distribution network and grid—

Will the Minister (a) explain in detail what caused the fault at the Ross Substation and (b) affirm, for the over a hundred thousand households and businesses that rely on it, that Powerlink's North Queensland transmission network is reliable?

ANSWER

On the morning of 21 October 2023, a sequence of events occurred at Powerlink's Ross substation triggering protection systems to operate to clear a transient fault consistent with wildlife impact to a transformer. It was followed by a loss of High Voltage supply to the Townsville area interrupting all connected load. Powerlink immediately commenced a safe response and restored supply progressively with power being restored between 2:30am and 3:30am.

Powerlink is undertaking a technical review of this event.

Powerlink continues to maintain Queensland's state-wide network of transmission lines, substations and easements through the energy transition ensuring the safe, secure and reliable operation of the network.