

**Question on Notice
No. 1576
Asked on Wednesday, 29 November 2023**

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

With reference to the Callide Power Station—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the return to service dates for the Callide C3 and C4 rebuilds as currently published by CS Energy remain, and what they are, (b) all outstanding works to be completed for the C3 and C4 unit rebuilds and (c) any other planned maintenance requiring generator shutdowns between now and the end of 2024-25 financial year?

ANSWER

(a)

As per CS Energy's media release of 5 December 2023, CS Energy through the Callide C Joint Venture have revised the service date for Callide C3 by 17 days, with the unit's partial return to service now set for 24 January 2024. There is no change to the forecast dates for C3's return to full capacity on 18 February 2024, nor does this impact the return to service dates for C4 scheduled for 50 per cent capacity on 19 May 2023, with full capacity returning from 6 July 2024.

The shift in Unit C3's partial return to service reflects the impact of recent wet weather, resourcing challenges, including illness at site, and global supply chain issues.

(b)

Work is continuing at full pace at the Callide C site. Approximately 300 people are working seven days a week to ensure the job is done safely and correctly on this important and highly complex project.

While construction work continues, CS Energy is working through a commissioning program for Unit C3. This will involve a series of tests, including briefly running the unit at low loads in mid-January, to support its partial return to capacity on 24 January.

(c)

Scheduled maintenance and outages are typically undertaken during low demand periods, such as winter and shoulder seasons. Critically, government owned generator assets are available to ensure sufficiency of supply through the peak summer period.

All operators plan outage periods for generating equipment to undertake works to maintain assets in a reliable condition and to meet statutory inspection requirements. Major overhaul activities on coal-fired plant are typically carried out on three or four year intervals.

Generators are required to inform the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) of their planned capacity three years in advance. AEMO aggregates this data to publish Medium Term Projected Assessment of System Adequacy (MTPASA) on a weekly basis for a two-year period and is available on their website.

Market participants utilise this data to form plans for plant scheduling and determining contracting and hedging strategies to manage supply and demand.