

**Question on Notice  
No. 456  
Asked on Thursday, 20 April 2023**

**MR D LAST** ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to recent frequent unplanned power outages in the area—

Will the Minister advise what electricity network upgrades are planned for the communities of Alligator Creek, Julago, Nome and Cungulla?

**ANSWER**

Energy Queensland Limited's network service provider subsidiary, Ergon Energy Network reviewed the current network and is implementing a range of actions to invest in network equipment to reduce the likelihood of outages and modify its response processes to reduce the impact of outages which do occur. Planned works include:

- aerial inspection to identify any issues that may cause outages
- targeted replacement of crossarms based on location and conditions
- replacement of sections of 11 kilovolt conductors/wires supplied from Stuart Substation
- installation of additional automatic switches to limit the number of network/customers isolated as part of unplanned outages. Automatic switches detect faults and switch off supply to make the network safe. In most cases for transient type outages (e.g., lightning, birds clashing wires) the switches will switch the power back on after five seconds.

I also note that on 19 March 2023 a community meeting was held in Alligator Creek in relation to the outages. Attendees included representatives of the Townsville City Council, including the Mayor; Ergon Energy Network and Telstra; as well as community representatives. The attendees were informed of Ergon Energy's planned works to address the outages. At that meeting, Ergon Energy Network advised the community representatives they will be kept up to date with the progress of these works.

In addition, Ergon Energy Network developed a community newsletter outlining the planned works which was mailed to customers in the area.