

**Question on Notice
No. 721
Asked on Thursday, 25 May 2023**

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

With reference to the frequent blackouts, unrelated to significant weather events, experienced by the North West over a number of years, which has crippled business including mining activity for significant periods at a big cost—

Will the Minister ensure (a) people are fairly compensated for the expense to their businesses and (b) if the problems are found to be a consequence of the monopoly energy supplier, will they be made financially accountable?

ANSWER

Energy Queensland advise that there have been four generation blackouts which have caused entire system blackouts to Mt Isa over the past five years.

I understand that the system interruptions were the result of issues relating to APA's North West Power System assets (rather than Ergon Energy's assets) and that APA has provided media statements regarding this. Each of the events have been outside of Ergon Energy Network's direct control. Affected residents and business are encouraged to contact APA to discuss their concerns including any compensable losses.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$5 billion in CopperString 2032 which will diversify energy supply of Queensland's North West Minerals Province by connecting Mt Isa to the national electricity grid. New renewable wind and solar resources will be unlocked to and new critical minerals mining and processing enabled to make batteries and renewables.