

ELECTRICITY DISCONNECTIONS

1204. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to recent media reports in which the WA Council of Social Services voiced concern about the increasing number of power disconnections in Western Australia, with a record 22 000 disconnections last financial year due to high power prices.

- (1) How many disconnections occurred for the financial years 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18?
- (2) Of the 22 000 disconnections in 2018–19, how many were in regional Western Australia?
- (3) Does the state government have any plans to alleviate high power prices and reduce the record number of disconnections caused under the minister's watch?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy.

- (1) For Horizon Power, the number of disconnection in 2015–16 was 2 328; in 2016–17, 3 519; and in 2017–18, 3 193. The answer for Synergy is in tabular form, so I seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

FINANCIAL YEAR	RESIDENTIAL DISCONNECTIONS FOR NON-PAYMENT IN THE SOUTH WEST INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM
2015/16	8,069
2016/17	14,109
2017/18	17,800

- (2) There were 3 600 disconnections from Horizon Power's area. For a complete regional Western Australian figure, Synergy's disconnections will need to be added to this number. Synergy operates in the south west interconnected system, which stretches from Kalbarri in the north to Kalgoorlie in the east and Albany in the south. Although Synergy can undertake a postcode analysis to give a clearer figure for regional areas, this question will take some time to answer and would be better placed on notice.
- (3) Yes.