

KARRATHA — UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT

**1014. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to the current underground power project for the town of Karratha.

- (1) What percentage of the Karratha township will be converted to underground power under the current scope of the project?
- (2) What is the full cost that has been budgeted for this project?
- (3) How much of that cost will be passed on to the local government authority to charge to its ratepayers?
- (4) What is the estimated cost to individual householders in Karratha —
  - (a) who already have underground power; and
  - (b) who do not have any underground power?

**Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. On behalf of the Minister for Energy, I provide the following response —

- (1) The scope of the Pilbara underground power project includes the conversion of all power in the town of Karratha to an underground network. However, following an extensive review of the program, it will now be delivered on a stage-by-stage basis in line with available funds. Based on current funding, Horizon Power will complete 100 per cent of the South Hedland and Wedgefield scope and approximately 41 per cent of the Karratha scope, which will include all of Millars Well and most of Bulgarra.
- (2) Horizon Power has advised that the estimated undergrounding cost for the town of Karratha is \$121.7 million.
- (3) The current agreement is for the local government authorities to contribute 25 per cent to the Pilbara undergrounding power project.
- (4) The charges to householders is a subject for the local government authority, which in this case is the Shire of Roebourne.