

HYBRID DIESEL-SOLAR ENERGY

52. Hon KEN BASTON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the supply of hybrid diesel-solar energy to the Ngurrawaana, Marta Marta, Innawonga and Youngaleena communities through the renewable remote power generation program, a commonwealth-funded initiative implemented by the Western Australian Sustainable Energy Development Office.

- (1) Is the minister aware -
 - (a) that the contractual cost of the four hybrid power systems was \$1 840 303 - almost \$2 million;
 - (b) that the contractual time for completion of works was 17 weeks; and
 - (c) that after two years, all four systems remain inoperable?
- (2) If so, will the minister advise -
 - (a) the date of the last inspection of the plants and the workmanship issues outstanding;
 - (b) the dates by which each of the plants will be fully operational; and
 - (c) whether the contractors who installed the systems have been paid, and, if so, why and were any penalties applied?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Ken Baston for some notice of this question. The Minister for Energy has provided the following response -

- (1)
 - (a) The eligible cost of these systems is \$1 187 092. The RRPGP rebates are 55 per cent of eligible renewable energy system costs. The rebate entitlement is \$652 900. A total of \$267 000 has been paid to date for equipment installed.
 - (b) The commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs or its contracted agents are the responsible project managers.
 - (c) Yes.
- (2) Management of this project, including inspection of plants for tender compliance, is the responsibility of the commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

I feel sure that if the honourable member were to make a direct approach to the minister, he would attempt to ascertain that information from the commonwealth department.