

UNDERGROUND POWER — TRIGG, NORTH BEACH AND WATERMANS BAY

Statement by Member for Scarborough

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough) [12.53 pm]: Late last month I joined the member for Carine to attend a community meeting hosted by the Trigg, North Beach and Watermans Bay Community Association to discuss the state underground power program. The meeting was well attended by the local community who were addressed by representatives from the Office of Energy, who gave a clear overview of the program. The meeting was informed that the primary reason for the state underground power program was to address issues of power reliability; therefore, proposed projects are prioritised on the number of minutes that householders have experienced blackouts over a 12-month period. The meeting was later advised that the other option for the undergrounding of power, particularly if the primary reason was for urban amenity, was through a program by the local government, as has been active in the City of Subiaco since 1982. Although the City of Stirling is not yet receptive to such a scheme, given the significant amenity and financially tangible benefits to ratepayers, it is an option that should be considered in the future. I congratulate the Trigg, North Beach and Watermans Bay Community Association for hosting this important community discussion. I look forward to continuing to support their members in their request to get underground power for the local community. The member for Carine and I continue to fight for that outcome.