

HORIZON POWER MYPower TRIAL

**705. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to this government's commitment to electricity pricing reform that was demonstrated last week in Broome by the launch of Horizon Power's MyPower trial. How will this trial assist in improving the affordability of electricity for regional consumers and reduce future network costs for Horizon Power, and is there potential for this scheme to be expanded across the state?

**Mr B.S. WYATT replied:**

That is a good question. I thank the member for the question. Indeed, as has been shown, Mr Speaker, this government has an appetite for tariff reform, because it is an important part of managing our electricity system. Last week, I travelled to Broome and was joined by the member for Kimberley to announce the latest on tariff reform.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It's a very good reform.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** It is a very good reform, but, unfortunately, the previous government could never get it done. It just could not get it done!

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I will take that interjection, Mr Speaker. Whether it be Synergy or whether it be Horizon, it just could not get it done! Thankfully, we have a government and we have a minister very keen to do tariff reform, as we have done with Synergy, which the Leader of the Opposition said was fair and required.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** The Leader of the Opposition said that it was fair and required but he never had the bottle to actually do it. We have done it; and, as a result, I have also done it with Horizon. I think the people of Broome will be very happy with what the McGowan Labor —

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the Leader of the Opposition for the third time. You just do not keep interjecting.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I think the people of Broome will be very happy with what the McGowan Labor government is doing because the MyPower trial is a very good trial, and hopefully it will solve the international conundrum of how to price the peak. The trial in Port Hedland, member for Pilbara, showed that with the right incentives and pricing scheme we can change the behaviour of consumers of electricity and, as a result, drive down power bills. We are now rolling that out in Broome and we are asking the people in Broome who want to be on the trial to contact Horizon Power through its website or indeed by way of a phone call. Effectively, those who participate in this trial will pay a higher price for the fixed charge component. I refer again to the decision that the government made about Synergy's fixed price, which the former government was unable to do. That fixed price will better reflect the current cost to supply electricity and importantly, therefore, a lower variable tariff will also be applied. As part of that, a free app will be provided by Horizon to those people on the trial so that they can see when they consume, how they consume and how much they consume at particular points in the day and make decisions about consuming off peak.

This is a very good decision. It is a very good program and it is the sort of thing that I would like to see rolled out on the south west interconnected system. It is very hard because ultimately the former government really did not do much in energy in eight and a half years. You did not do much at all, Mike, and that is the reality.

**The SPEAKER:** Member, you will call the Leader of the Opposition by his title.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I apologise. That is the reality, Leader of the Opposition. He talked a big game in energy but, unfortunately, delivered very little. It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition is making some interesting moaning noises from across the chamber. I assume it is because of his delight that I am finally doing what he could never do; the immense satisfaction he has in watching the government get on with doing things. I am delighted that the happy ending is going to be lower power prices for those on the trial in Broome. Hopefully, we can roll that out further and, in due course, through the decisions that this government is making about the regulatory regime of Western Power and tariff reform in Synergy, we will see it rolled out on the south west interconnected system.