

PILBARA UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT — KARRATHA, ROEBOURNE AND ONSLOW

746. Hon DARREN WEST to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the Minister for Regional Development's media statement of 16 July 2014, announcing an extra \$75 million in funding for the underground power project.

- (1) How many properties are still awaiting connection to underground power in —
 - (a) Karratha;
 - (b) Roebourne; and
 - (c) Onslow?
- (2) How many properties have been connected in —
 - (a) Karratha;
 - (b) Roebourne; and
 - (c) Onslow?
- (3) Was a business case prepared for the project when it was first announced in 2010?
- (4) If yes to (3), will the minister table it?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

Happy to be back! I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)
 - (a) Karratha, 2 272 lots;
 - (b) Roebourne, 20 lots; and
 - (c) Onslow, 221 lots.
- (2)
 - (a) Karratha, 1 032 lots;
 - (b) Roebourne, zero; and
 - (c) Onslow, zero.
- (3)–(4) In 2008 Horizon Power submitted a project concept, including letters of support from local government agencies, to the Minister for Energy for the undergrounding of power within its service area for coastal towns from Wyndham to Esperance. Horizon Power received endorsement in 2008 from the state government for the undergrounding of power for South Hedland, Wedgefield, Onslow, Roebourne and Karratha, based on the project concept. A business case was not developed because the project concept received a commitment from the state government and was established on work done by the Office of Energy.