

ELECTRICITY PRICES

47. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Energy:

On 7 March 2017, prior to the 2017 state election, Mark McGowan released a statement on his website, which stated —

“Everyone knows that when you privatise State-owned utilities, power prices go up, and services go down.

The website also stated —

... Western Australians could not afford to see their power bills go up even further.

In light of these statements, can the Minister for Energy confirm to Horizon Power customers in regional WA that they will not face electricity price increases above that of the consumer price index rate for at least the next two years?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy.

The electricity prices paid by Horizon Power customers are currently well below the cost of supply and are subsidised by government. The Labor government is yet to make a decision on electricity prices for 2017–18. As a former minister in the Barnett–Nahan government, the member would be aware that his government left the state finances in a catastrophic state. As such, the McGowan government will need to make —

Hon Jim Chown: Let’s swap places. We’ll go back to where we were and we’ll govern properly!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! The only place you will swap places with is outside the chamber if you do not obey the standing orders, customs and practices of this house. Minister, would you like to finish your answer?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Thank you, Mr President. I would indeed. The remainder of the answer is: as such, the McGowan government will need to make decisions that attempt to redress the eight years of financial vandalism and mismanagement that have left the state with record debt levels.