

CARNARVON POWER PROJECT

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

I refer to the response to question without notice 81 on 27 March.

- (1) With respect to answer (3), when will Horizon Power investigations into the potential for a range of sustainable technologies commence and how long will it take?
- (2) Given that Carnarvon is already linked to the natural gas pipeline from Dampier and that the successful but later abandoned tender in 2005 proposed a gas-fired power station, what studies have been undertaken to compare gas and renewable infrastructure costs and the final power costs of each to the consumer?
- (3) Does Horizon Power have a target date for the redevelopment or replacement of the Carnarvon Power Station; and, if so, what is it?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Horizon Power's investigations into the potential range of sustainable technologies suitable for application at Carnarvon is under way and expected to conclude in June 2007.
- (2) Horizon Power is conducting studies to compare the costs of gas and renewable generation as part of its evaluation of the Carnarvon power station's redevelopment options. Uniform tariffs will be maintained in Carnarvon so customer power costs will continue to be subsidised and will not be affected by Horizon Power's generation costs.
- (3) The existing power station operation is managed and monitored to ensure that it is able to meet forecast consumer demand. Horizon Power does not have a target date for completion of the Carnarvon power station redevelopment. The present review of redevelopment options is expected to be completed in June 2007 and will inform budget and investment processes.