

SYNERGY — SOLAR REWARDS

1402. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:

President, I am popular today.

Hon Stephen Dawson: You're popular every day.

Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS: The President probably is popular every day, as opposed to some other members like me!

I refer to Synergy's fully subscribed 19 000 household Solar Rewards trial incorporating a \$50 rebate on their next Synergy bill and an additional \$50 credit in a year's time.

- (1) When a household participating in the Solar Rewards trial has their solar generation remotely turned off, is the household refunded by Synergy for the cost of the power they utilise during the shut-off period?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the projected total cost of the Solar Rewards trial, including the two \$50 payments to participating households?
- (3) What percentage of the trial are metropolitan households?
- (4) What percentage of the trial are regional households?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Energy.

Synergy's Solar Rewards product will be the first opportunity for customers to receive a financial incentive for the orchestration of their distributed energy resources assets. This is a world-leading approach to managing the uptake of rooftop solar and ensures the stability of the south west interconnected system. Solar Rewards gives Synergy the option to temporarily turn off participating households' rooftop solar when electricity demand is low and, instead, provide no-cost energy to the home straight from the grid. Participants receive a financial incentive and bill credits in exchange for giving Synergy permission to switch off their rooftop solar PV system up to 15 times during the contract period from 1 October 2023 to 30 November 2024. Solar Rewards will assist in managing the stability of the SWIS during a low-load event, when the supply of electricity generated by rooftop solar is high but demand is low. This typically occurs in the middle of the day in spring and autumn.

- (1) There are currently 2 665 customers signed up to Solar Rewards. Following the service commencement date, a \$50 sign-up credit was applied to participating customers' Synergy account. Following the conclusion of the contract on 30 November 2024, a final credit of \$50 will be applied to participating customers' Synergy account.

When a Solar Rewards event occurs, participants will continue to have access to electricity from the grid and will receive a credit to cover the cost of electricity consumed during the period of the Solar Rewards event, which is applied on a quarterly basis.

- (2) Incentive payments for Solar Reward customers of approximately \$450 000 are forecast over the course of the contract period.

President, the answer to question (3) and (4) is in tabular form. I seek leave to have the response incorporated into *Hansard*.

[Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.]

(3)–(4)

Total Solar Rewards Customers	2665	
Supply Address Service Region	Number of Customers	Percentage by Region
Perth Metro	2394	89.8%
Regional	271	10.2%
Supply Address Service Region	Number of Customers	Percentage by Region
Perth Metro	2394	89.8%
Country North	74	2.8%
Country South	197	7.4%
