

HORIZON POWER — WEST AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

**231. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Energy:**

I have a supplementary question. How does the minister expect us to believe that Horizon Power cannot get companies to bid for its projects when private companies have told us that they are anxious for that work?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

The reason the member can believe that is that is what Horizon Power explained to me. There is a process under the Electricity Corporations Act 2005 that is called section 70; that is, when energy companies want to take a new policy approach, they have to seek the agreement of the responsible minister. That is a rigorous process led by Energy Policy WA, but includes advice from at least Treasury and, in this case, also from the State Solicitor's Office. It was used when we created Boundary Power, which again is exactly the same structure in which Horizon holds a 50 per cent share in the JV, and it is being used in this case as well. The commercial agreement that Horizon has entered into is entirely appropriate and, as I say, we do not want to have a situation in which Horizon continues to have projects for which there are no bids, because we want to make sure that Aboriginal and remote communities are looked after. As I said, I understand that the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party were not prepared to support remote Aboriginal communities. Not a single cent of royalties for regions money was spent on those 108 communities. They are the 108 communities that the Liberal and National Parties wanted to close.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! There are people here who may not like what the minister is saying, but he is entitled to say it. He is coming to the conclusion of his supplementary answer. As for government members, he does not require your support.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** These are the communities that the Liberal and National Parties wanted to close. Not one cent of royalties for regions money was spent in those communities, despite the billions of dollars that were sloshed through. It is time that the Liberal and National Parties let the government get on and deliver the services that we are delivering for those communities.