

WESTERN POWER — OUTAGES — REVIEW

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy) [12.08 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house that today I will be tabling the *Independent review of Christmas 2021 power outages*. The review, which was undertaken by Michelle Shepherd, found that the Christmas outages between Christmas Eve and 28 December 2021 impacted 107 000 Western Power customers. Around 26 000 customers were without power for more than 12 hours and 40 000 customers experienced repeated outages over the extremely hot holiday period. Residents and businesses in Mandurah, Wanneroo, Armadale and Geraldton experienced the greatest number and duration of outages. The outages also impacted Chapman Valley, Murray, Capel, Katanning and Gingin.

The record-breaking high temperatures experienced resulted in an abnormally high use of air conditioners and fans, which put pressure on Western Power's network. The recommendations of the report include improving Western Power's planning and forecasting, approach to fire risk management and operational response to extreme events. It also recommended improvements to customer and community communications and greater transparency of reliability issues. The Christmas power outage review has revealed that although 100 per cent power reliability is not possible, improvements can be made to ensure that Western Power is prepared to safely manage future events.

I have written to the Western Power chair asking for a time line of when the recommendations will be implemented. Western Power is already preparing for future outages by rolling out batteries, microgrids, standalone power systems and other network improvements. I look forward to announcing the progress in improving Western Australia's electricity network and thank Michelle Shepherd for completing this report. I table the report.

[See paper [1037](#).]