

SOUTH WEST INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM — TRANSMISSION LINES

340. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Energy:

I have a supplementary question. As the minister referred to in his answer, what is the rough estimate of the total cost?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

It is a lot. We are not in a position to start publicly commenting. We are negotiating with the large industrial users that will have to pay for the infrastructure. We might have better ideas after Western Power has done the work. We do not have to fund every single project, because some projects are for the distant future. I am unlikely to be the Minister for Energy in 2043, which is the time line —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I was thinking you might still be answering the question then.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: You never know—only if the Speaker lets me!

We are a long way from that. There are four priority projects. One of those is mandatory renewable energy target, which has been on the books for years, and the other three are a reinforcement of existing infrastructure. We do not expect any of those to be particularly expensive, but we also have to negotiate with the users of the infrastructure to make sure that they are paying the true costs involved in the projects.