

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY — REGIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. Minister, do you believe that a 32-amp supply allocation is sufficient to run a 100 per cent electricity household and meet the energy needs of a modern family?

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

As I explained a moment ago, although there have been some changes, my advice is that there have been changes to the safety arrangements that Western Power and Horizon apply to aspects of the network management, and that the 32-amp capacity has not changed. The 32-amp capacity is not related to the issue the member is raising. What has occurred is that the people have been drawing more than 32 amps across their connection. My advice is that is because they were not compliant, and not because there has been a change. My advice is that what is occurring is that when people are getting a new installation, the installer is being told that is limited to 32 amps. It has always been limited to 32 amps. There may have been occasions that people have been drawing more than 32 amps, but that was exceeding their supply. Only a 32-amp supply is guaranteed. The fact that people were drawing more than that is because they were drawing above the guaranteed connection. This is a safety question. It is not a change to the performance of equipment. That is the point I am making. There is no change to performance of the Western Power connection points. They were exactly the same prior to this rule change.

*Visitors — Carine Senior High School*

**The SPEAKER:** Before I give the member for Riverton the call, I acknowledge and welcome to the public gallery today the year 12 prefects of Carine Senior High School on behalf of the member for Carine, and their principal, Mr Damian Shuttleworth, formerly principal of Swan View Senior High School, and the other students here. You are very welcome to question time today.