

SOUTH WEST INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM

869. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Energy:

I have a supplementary question. Who is telling the truth about our system reliability? Is it the minister or AEMO?
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

This is how ridiculous it is. I have just quoted the Australian Energy Market Operator congratulating the government for making the changes that are necessary to run the system and then the member asks me who is telling the truth. I know we are going to have a private members' business debate and it will be excruciating. We will have an hour from the member for Cottesloe pointing out that he does not know anything about the energy system, we will have an hour from other members talking about individual outages for individual householders and then I will have to respond. What does the member want me to do? What I do is work hard listening to people in the sector, the people who know what they are doing and who are investing billions of dollars. I talk to the Australian Energy Market Operator, I get advice from 120 high-quality public servants at Energy Policy WA and I listen to the leadership from Western Power and Synergy. Following all that, we synthesise a plan, we get it tested by market participants and then we implement it. That is why the Australian Energy Market Operator continues to say in this report that the government is doing exactly what we need to keep the system reliable. The fact that there has not been a single outage at any time over the last seven years demonstrates the good work that we are doing.