

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C1238

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 20 October 2015

Hon Robin Chappie to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy.

1. What percentage of the electricity consumed in the South West Interconnected System comes from large-scale renewable sources, and how much is this in gigawatt hours?
2. What does the State Government plan to do to increase this figure to equate to 20% of our electricity by 2020, as required by the Federal Renewable Energy Target legislation?
3. Will the State Government commit to creating the infrastructure to generate 20% of West Australia's electricity by 2020 within the state, to avoid a situation in which Synergy and Horizon Power have to purchase Large Scale Renewable Energy Certificates from the Eastern States, or else incur a financial penalty?

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**I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.**

1. In 2014, 9.3 per cent (1,713 gigawatt hours) of total electricity production in the South West Interconnected System was supplied by large-scale renewable energy generating facilities.<sup>1</sup>

2. Meeting Commonwealth Government's Renewable Energy Target obligations is a commercial matter for electricity businesses. The Minister has reiterated with the electricity businesses of the requirements to meet the Renewable Energy Target.

3. Planning, construction and maintenance of network infrastructure used to facilitate the connection and operation of renewable electricity generation in the South West Interconnected System is the responsibility of Western Power in accordance with the regulatory requirements for network investment under the *Electricity Networks Access Code 2004*. The government has made significant investment in the network, e.g. \$406 million Mid West Energy Project.

For Horizon Power, infrastructure investments necessary to meet obligations under the Commonwealth Government's Renewable Energy Target are a matter to be determined by the business in accordance with commercial principles.

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Market Operator-sourced data (by the Public Utilities Office) on quantity of electricity exported through the South West Interconnected System and 2014 *Electricity Statement of Opportunities* data.

*M Mahan*