

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Renewables, Energy and Essential Services:

Cut in electricity supply to Alice Springs - Sunday 13th October 2019

1. Is the Owen Springs Power Station currently able to handle the peak demands for electricity in Alice Springs and Central Australia?
2. If yes, then why did was the electricity cut throughout Central Australia on Sunday 13th October 2019 for up to 9 hours in some areas?
3. If no, then what needs to be done to increase the capacity of the Owen Springs Power Station?
4. If no, then why is the Ron Goodin Power Station not kept running on “hot” to act as a back up to the Owen Springs Power Station?
5. What is the maximum kilowatt demand for electricity we have seen in Alice Springs?
6. Does the Owen Springs Power Station have the capacity to supply this demand?
7. After the blackout on Sunday 13th October 2019, what changes have been made to ensure this does not happen again?
8. During blackouts in Alice Springs and Central Australia, like we had on Sunday 13th October 2019, power is cut to the water bore fields, as this they are a major consumer of electricity in Alice Springs. Did this happen on Sunday 13th October 2019?
9. What are the implications or ramifications of cutting the power supply to the water bores?

10. Who will be undertaking the “independent” review or inquiry into what exactly happened on Sunday 13th October 2019?
 - a. When will the review be completed?
 - b. What will be the cost of this review?
 - c. Will the review be made public?
11. Can you reassure residents that there will be no more blackouts in Alice Springs over the coming summer months due to technical problems like we saw on Sunday 13th October 2019?
12. Could you provide a breakdown on the periods of time that areas of Alice Springs and Central Australia were effected by the blackout, providing information of the time that the power was cut and the time the power was restored?
13. What was the cost of the blackout to Territory Generation including cost of labour, materials and expertise required to fix this emergency?
14. The Electrical Trade Union is speculating that there will be more cuts to electricity supply in Alice Springs. Is this true?
15. Is it possible that the same thing that happened on Sunday 13th October 2019 causing the cut of electricity across Central Australia could happen again in the coming weeks and months?