



Hon Geoff Wilson MP
Member for Ferny Grove



Minister for Mines and Energy

Your Ref:
Our Ref: E/06/01071

18 OCT 2006



Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2006 addressed to the Honourable John Mickel MP, Minister for Energy and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, concerning petition number 699-06, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 8 August 2006. Further to the recent State Election, I was appointed as the Minister for Mines and Energy. The delay in responding to your letter is regretted.

I am advised by Ergon Energy that in the summer of 2005-2006, the area near Alpha in the Jericho Shire experienced reliability issues with its electricity supply. I am further advised that reliability issues were mainly attributed to a severe storm season in Queensland.

I am also advised by Ergon Energy that the township of Alpha and the surrounding Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) network is supplied with electricity from Ergon Energy's Barcardine Substation. The Barcardine Substation receives its power from Powerlink's Lilyvale Substation via a 132 kilovolt feeder. The total length of the line on the feeder from the Barcardine Substation supplying the township of Alpha and surrounding SWER schemes is 1,710 kilometres with only eight percent being three phase line. I am further advised there has been slow but steady growth in electricity demand in this region.

I am advised that in July 2005, Ergon Energy installed a 1,250 kilovolt-ampere peak-opping generator near Alpha to complement the existing electricity supply from the Barcardine Substation and improve electricity supply reliability. I am also advised that Ergon Energy experienced operational difficulties with this generator and it was replaced in January 2006. As a result of further operating issues with the replacement generator, it was taken off line in mid February 2006 and recommissioned in late February 2006. I am further advised there have been no further problems experienced with the generator.

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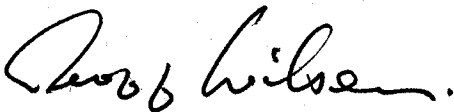
I am advised that in response to community concerns regarding electricity supply reliability in the area, Ergon Energy arranged public meetings in both Alpha and Jericho in mid July 2006.

Ergon Energy has advised that to meet future electricity supply demands of the Jericho Shire, it has adopted a four step process to:

- closely monitor generator operations to ensure voltage and capacity targets are met;
- enhance internal knowledge and processes to ensure the generator issues can be addressed more expeditiously in future;
- compile a comprehensive asset management plan, to determine long term network solutions for the Jericho Shire, considering future planning, power quality and reliability issues; and
- continue consultation with residents of the Jericho Shire to ensure consumers are appropriately informed of any reliability issues and proposed solutions.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust this information is of assistance. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr Jamie Burr of the Department of Mines and Energy on telephone 3222 2207.

Yours sincerely



GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Mines and Energy