

## MARION SHOPPING CENTRE

2 May 2006

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Energy, a question about compensation for retailers affected by the blackout, which occurred early last month at the Marion Shopping Centre.

*The Advertiser* reported on 10 April this year that, for 18 hours over the preceding weekend of 8 and 9 April, power 'went out at the Westfield complex at about 10 p.m. Saturday, with the problem also affecting about 200 homes in the area. ETSA fixed the residential power supply within an hour.' One business owner interviewed, a Mr Agostino, said that trade in his shop was down 'at least 60 per cent on normal Sunday trading' and, to use his words, he had 'lost a lot of money.' My questions are:

1. Which electricity provider has the minister identified as being responsible for the problem?
2. Why was the response for the residential supply problem able to be dealt with far quicker than the business supply?
3. Is the government going to offer compensation to the businesses affected? If so, how will the government assess the appropriate figure for compensation?
4. If not, what action will the government be taking to make the electricity provider pay compensation?

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**1 August 2006**

In reply to: **The Hon D.G.E. Hood** (2 May 2006)

**The Hon P. Holloway:** “The Minister for Energy has provided the following information:

The electricity supply interruption of 8 and 9 April 2006 at the Westfield Marion Shopping Centre was due to a fault on the Westfield switchboard, not due to the distribution infrastructure of ETSA Utilities (ETSA).

The Westfield fault caused a protection device in ETSA’s substation adjacent to the Marion Shopping Centre to operate, resulting in an interruption to approximately 160 of ETSA’s customers in nearby areas. Given that the fault was in Westfield assets, ETSA’s immediate response was to restore supply to its customers, which was achieved within two hours by ETSA’s maintenance crews. ETSA’s crews also assisted Westfield Marion staff to repair Westfield’s switchboard through Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Accordingly, the issue of compensation is one for the Westfield tenants to resolve with Westfield management.”