

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 19 March 2008

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms D.J. Guise) took the chair at 12 noon, and read prayers.

LOGUE BROOK DAM

Petition

MR M.J. COWPER (Murray) [12.01 pm]: I have a petition that conforms with the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. The petition seeks to prevent the loss of Logue Brook Dam as a pivotal recreational facility for the people of Western Australia. It reads —

To the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned say that:

Logue Brook Dam has been the traditional holiday destination and recreational facility for many thousands of ordinary Western Australians for the past 44 years, and despite plans to build a 100-gigalitre-desalination plant in the Harvey Shire at Binningup, the Carpenter Government wants the 5 gigalitres of water from Logue Brook Dam. This will seriously impact on the social, economic and health well being of the local community.

Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly to support our campaign for the Government to

1. Urgently review its decision to deprive this valuable asset from the many Western Australians, who cannot afford expensive holiday destinations and continue to allow human interaction with the Logue Brook Dam and surrounds.
2. Fix the annual 2.2 gigalitres of water lost to leakage in the Perth metropolitan area.

The petition, which was first circulated after Christmas, comprises 3 018 signatures.

[See petition 294.]

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

ECONOMIC REGULATION AUTHORITY — “ANNUAL WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKET REPORT FOR THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY”

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Energy) [12.03 pm]: I wish to table the “Annual Wholesale Electricity Market Report for the Minister for Energy”, as compiled by the Economic Regulation Authority following its first review of the effectiveness of the wholesale electricity market. The review was conducted in accordance with the requirements of section 128(1) of the Electricity Industry Act 2004 and clause 2.16.11 of the Wholesale Electricity Market Rules. I am pleased to note that the report indicates that the energy market has been performing effectively since it commenced trading electricity on 21 September 2006.

The report represents another significant milestone in the government’s successful electricity reform program and shows that the wholesale electricity market is providing an effective mechanism for energy industry participants to trade electricity within the south west interconnected system. The successful operation of the wholesale electricity market together with other reform measures, such as the disaggregation of the Western Power Corporation, is having tangible benefits on increasing the competitiveness of the electricity industry in this state. In particular, the report notes that a number of new participants have entered the market since it commenced. Since 2006, four significant new power stations have come on line. Another five are scheduled to begin operation over the next year or two, and another four are being developed. This increased level of market participation is primarily being accomplished via the reserve capacity mechanism, which is an integral feature of the wholesale electricity market. The Independent Market Operator is administering these arrangements to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the wholesale electricity market to meet the generation requirements of the SWIS.

This additional capacity is also evidenced by new supply arrangements that Synergy entered into in 2007, which features new generation facilities, including 40-megawatt renewable energy from the WA Biomass power station, NewGen’s 330-megawatt gas-fired Neerabup Power Station and Griffin’s 200-megawatt phase II development of Bluewaters Power Station. This mix of renewable coal and gas plants represents good diversity