



Mick Gentleman MLA

Manager of Government Business
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

Member for Brindabella

#20/96309

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Questions on Notice Paper No 01
4 December 2020
Question No. 16

MRS KIKKERT: To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management—

- (1) Noting that certain residents in Lionel Rose Street, Holt, purchased blocks and built homes without any knowledge of the 330kV transmission lines that would be erected directly behind their properties because the ACT Government failed to include the development application for this major infrastructure project on the official lease conveyancing reports. Leaseholders have been informed that at least some of their residential fences must now be earthed to avoid the risk of induced voltage. Also noting that in question on Notice No 2915 (Ninth Assembly) I asked, 'Who will pay for rectification work to residents' fences that require earthing' and in response, I was told that 'the ACT Government is engaging with the utility around responsibilities'. Further noting that on 14 September 2020, residents were informed via an email from the utility that 'in principle, the earthing of fences in these circumstances is the responsibility of the property owner, however given the history of this matter we have been in consultation with the ACT government in an attempt to assist landowners. We will follow up this matter in coming weeks and will provide an update'. The 330kV transmission lines have been live since at least 4 November 2020, according to the utility and an audit identified certain lengths of fence located on residential blocks in Lionel Rose Street that needed to be earthed, have all these lengths of fence been earthed now; if so, on which date/s were they earthed; if not, why not.
- (2) Why is it the responsibility of property owners to earth fences on their properties that were safe from induced voltage before the construction of high-voltage transmission lines directly behind their houses.
- (3) Who has paid or will pay for the earthing of these fences, and how much was/is the total cost, and if shared, how much did/will each party pay

MINISTER GENTLMAN - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The information that some Lionel Rose Street, Holt, residential fences need to be earthed is not correct. Whilst an initial generic audit by Transgrid based on general criteria that was conducted in late 2019 indicated that some fences may have required earthing, a subsequent site-specific Stockdill project assessment showed that residential fence earthing would not be needed. This position has been supported by recent independent on-site testing showing compliance with Australian Standards. TransGrid has additionally advised that the 330kV transmission line is safe.
- (2) TransGrid had advised that if fence earthing was in fact required, TransGrid would undertake this work prior to line energisation. Standard utility communication regarding fencing risks is typically tailored to people building residences near existing transmission lines, not new lines.
- (3) Not applicable.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management Date:.....22/12/2020.....

This response required 5hrs 15mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$444.61.