

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 15

6 February 2025

Question No. 830

Deborah Morris MLA: To ask the Minister for Finance

In relation to the answer to question on notice No 735,

- (a) how does Evoenergy define an ignition event for reporting purposes, and does it include near misses where a vegetation fire does not occur,
- (b) what systems are used to detect ignition events,
- (c) does Evoenergy use any tools to detect fire events near energy distribution assets and
- (d) what is Evoenergy's response protocol when an ignition event is suspected or identified.

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Evoenergy, which is partly owned by Icon Water as a participant in the ActewAGL Joint Venture, owns, maintains and operates the electricity distribution network in the ACT region. I have sought advice from Evoenergy to inform this response.

(a) An ignition event is reported in any instance where there is evidence of fire such as charring, melted components or smoke damage. An ignition can be caused by network assets, or external factors such as vegetation, animals, third-party activity or weather impacting on those assets. Ignition events are reported even if the surrounding vegetation is not affected. Reporting practice is informed by the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* and the *Electricity Safety Act 1971*.

(b) Ignition events may be identified through reports from the community, notifications from ACT Fire and Rescue, network protection and monitoring systems, together with inspections or patrols by Evoenergy.

(c) Evoenergy uses network protection and monitoring systems, including fire detection systems within certain assets such as sub-transmission zone substations. Information received from emergency services and the community also support identification of fire events near electricity distribution assets.

(d) Safety is Evoenergy's highest priority. When an ignition event is suspected or identified, Evoenergy attends the site urgently, makes the area safe and undertakes repairs as necessary.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Finance

Date: 15 / 3 / 26

This response required 1 hour 25 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$178.62.