

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 150
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Program: Energy Division (ED)
Topic: System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI)
Hansard Page: 75
Question Date: 27 February 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Is the SAIDI, the System Average Interruption Duration Index, a good measure of the reliability of an electricity system?

Mr O'Toole: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator URQUHART: You do not know? Can you tell me what it actually measures, in layman's terms?

Mr O'Toole: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator URQUHART: Can you tell us what the latest SAIDI was for the states that make up the NEM?

Mr Heferen: I think we have established that this—SAIDI?

Senator URQUHART: Yes, SAIDI—System Average Interruption Duration Index.

Mr Heferen: No, we are not aware of that. In relation to the SAIDI measures that make up the NEM, we will have to take that on notice as well.

Answer:

No, the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) is not a good measure of the reliability of the electricity system.

SAIDI measures distribution reliability, which is a measure of total duration of all sustained unplanned outages (in minutes) experienced by customers on average that occurred over a period. That is, how many minutes on average customers are without electricity for a defined period of time.

The measure relies on the accuracy of data from businesses, which can vary. Accordingly, the Australian Energy Regulator, which monitors SAIDI, warned in its most recent State of the Energy Market report that care should be taken when comparing SAIDI across jurisdictions.

The most recent SAIDI figures for National Electricity Market (NEM) (2015-16) jurisdictions:

- Queensland – 173 minutes
- NSW – 146 minutes
- Victoria – unavailable
- South Australia – 173 minutes
- Tasmania – 275 minutes
- ACT – 40 minutes