

23 June 2008

The lessons of Varanus Island



The explosion of gas pipelines on Varanus Island will be a lesson on how fragile our economic infrastructure really is.

Hills MP Tony Simpson has recommended that households and businesses prepare for energy shortages and higher prices in the months ahead.

“We need to be prepared for the fallout of this tragic accident,” he said.

“There are many things that we take for granted in our society today; large, fast, safe and comfortable cars, homes that previous generations would have considered mansions,

computers and wide screen televisions and even things that we consider basic human rights, such as safe drinking water, energy and an abundant supply of high quality foods.

“Earlier generations would have considered all of these a luxury, or wouldn’t have even thought of them at all. Many of us consider them a necessity.

“The recent explosion of a pipeline on Varanus Island and the following shortage of gas should make us think about how fragile many of these things really are.

“In the following months, there is the chance that this lesson will be hammered home. The price of fuel and gas could rise, there could be electricity shortages and some businesses may be forced to stop operations, causing job losses.

“My colleagues in Parliament raised the possibility of gas or energy shortages earlier this year, but the State Government fobbed them off. They said it wasn’t a possibility.

“Let’s hope that this careless attitude does not result in the worst possible outcome.

“We can only hope that the Government will learn a lesson from this mistake and plan for our energy supply better in the future.”

MEDIA STATEMENT

Tony Simpson MLA

LIBERAL FOR DARLING RANGE

“If you wish to talk to me about this or any other issue, or if you are experiencing problems due to the shortage of gas, please contact me at any time.”

Working for Darling Range
