

NOT 4 SALE

FS#4

SAFETY AND RELIABILITY

FACT – Queensland is a diverse and beautiful state that experiences more than its share of natural disasters, and because we have major cities up and down the coastline we are more susceptible than other states to major power outages.

Some recent natural disasters; Cyclone Larry of 2006, the summer of 2010/2011 when 80% of the state was declared a disaster zone, the Brisbane floods, Cyclone YASI and the inland Tsunami all caused significant damage to vital infrastructure including our electricity network. However having that network in public hands made a difference to the response and focus.

The YASI experience - ***Public asset responding to public need.***

Response times and employee commitment to power restoration following YASI were applauded by the community, the government and the companies. The success was due in no small part to the fact that state owned electricity supplier Ergon Energy has depots in many local communities and its workers are actively involved in their communities. Apart from the clean-up it also assisted hard hit consumers through flexible billing and other initiatives to help hardest hit consumers.

The Black Saturday Bushfires – ***Private failure leads to public pain in Victoria***

The Black Saturday bushfires raged through Victoria on Saturday, February 7, 2009, killing 173 people, injuring 414 and destroying 2030 homes. The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission found that five of the Black Saturday bushfires including the Kilmore East and Murrindindi blazes that claimed 159 lives were caused by electricity asset failures linked to lack of maintenance and upkeep. Class actions were taken against the privatised power companies including Singapore-backed SP AusNet which is worth \$3.5 billion.

FACT – Public assets and their employees are part of our communities, Private companies are...Private companies.