



# CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

18 October 2024

Media Release

## **Emergency Management Committee meeting over power crisis**

Central Darling Shire Council is receiving five generators today (from Broken Hill and Cobar) as the power outage impacting Wilcannia, Menindee and White Cliffs enters the second day. The weather is adding to the situation with the majority of unsealed roads in the Shire closed. This is also creating access issues for authorities working to restore power lines.

At this morning's Local Emergency Management Committee meeting representatives were advised that it would take up to 20 days for power to be fully restored. The situation comes after a large storm on Wednesday night, October 16, in Broken Hill and the surrounding area caused major damage to high voltage power supply infrastructure.

This morning's meeting was told that last night further damage was discovered to a line which provides power to Wilcannia and Menindee. Technicians are working to assess the situation which is being made more challenging due to the unsealed road network. Authorities have been flying over the site to assess the situation.

Once power can be restored to Central Darling Shire it is anticipated that the available power will be shared with Broken Hill while repairs are made to the electricity system. The details of how this will work are still being determined by the authorities. Overnight the generator which is supplying the entire town of Broken Hill went down for about two hours, and this is thought to have been caused by a lightning strike.

At the moment, Health is not reporting any concerns provided they can maintain fuel supplies for generator power. The Council is working with the local chemist to see what needs to be done regarding cool storage of medicines. There are no reported issues with the aged and disabled residents and door-knocking for welfare purposes has been occurring.

At White Cliffs the local Hotel is also offering freezer space to residents. Also in White Cliffs, Blue White has offered the community the use of a refrigerated shipping container for their food supplies. The community spirit and willingness of everyone to help and provide whatever assistance they can is a credit to all involved.

RFS will be supplying Menindee township two generators, to support 20ft refrigerated container, Starlink communications and lighting towers. This is expected to arrive in Menindee some time this Saturday.

Communication remains one of the biggest concerns with limited and patchy service. Residents can charge their mobile phones at the following locations:

- Menindee SES from midday today.
- White Cliffs Store and White Cliffs Hotel.
- Wilcannia Council Chambers and Wilcannia Golf Club (after 1pm daily).

People wanting to visit the Shire are advised to delay their journey until the situation returns to normal. Ends

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