



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

17 October 2024

Media Release

Emergency Management Committee meeting over power crisis

Parts of Central Darling Shire is in the grip of a power emergency which could last up to 20 days. Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Menindee are isolated without power and the Telstra mobile coverage is a major incident with limited or non-existent phone coverage. Fuel supplies are affected particularly with the need to power generators. Thankfully there are no issues with the quality of drinking water.

The situation comes after a large storm on Wednesday night in Broken Hill and the surrounding area caused major damage to high voltage power supply infrastructure.

The local Emergency Management Committee has been meeting since the situation occurred to ensure any issues are quickly identified to protect the wellbeing of residents.

Issues identified so far surround access to communications, fuel supplies and food security due to refrigeration systems not working.

The Local Emergency Management Committee brings together organisations including Police, RFS, SES, Health, Education, Transport, Welfare Services, Aboriginal Affairs, NSW Reconstruction Authority, WaterNSW, Essential Water, National Parks & Wildlife and Regional NSW. Organisations are being briefed with the latest information about the situation and sharing ideas and resources to assist where they can.

At this stage organisations are working on a number of issues including:

- Sourcing additional communications devices to provide service.
- Sourcing additional generators.
- Resolving a fuel issue with service station pumps not working.
- Planning for potential food security problems.
- Monitoring information regarding schools and whether they will stay open.
- Clarifying the situation with aviation fuel at airports.

Ends

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