



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

18 October 2024

Media Release

Power could soon be restored to communities

Essential Energy is hopeful of having power restored to 1,400 customers in Menindee, Wilcannia and Sunset Strip this afternoon/evening, after a significant storm caused extensive damage to the transmission network on Wednesday night bringing several transmission towers down south of Broken Hill.

Essential Energy teams are completing aerial inspections along the powerlines from Broken Hill to Menindee, Sunset Strip, and Wilcannia, to check for any additional damage before restoring power. If no further damage is found, power will be restored, otherwise, repairs will be arranged.

Once power is returned people could experience some disruptions while the infrastructure is repaired. The current system will likely not be able to meet demand and load shedding will therefore need to be occurring until the system is fully restored making power supply unpredictable and limited. The repairs to the infrastructure could take up to 20 days.

Essential Energy is obtaining four 1750kVa generators from an external supplier. They will arrive in Broken Hill in the next two days and may take some time (~two days) to connect as it is a complex process.

These four large generators are intended to be connected at the Essential Energy Pinnacles Place substation, which is the major supply point for the rural communities outside Broken Hill (Menindee, Milparinka, Tibooburra etc). Should the current situation deteriorate, they would be the backup supply for these communities.

At this afternoon's Local Emergency Management Committee meeting it was agreed that there was a need for a leading agency to manage issues around food security with residents facing the prospect of spoiled food and access to food becoming a potential issue along with risks associated with food poisoning. Three organisations have agreed to work together and see what needs to be done to assist communities and more information will be provided in the coming days.

Ends

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