

Media statement



10 February 2017

Essential Energy postpones planned work amid extreme weather forecasts

With extreme weather forecast across NSW this weekend, Essential Energy has postponed all planned power outages scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday (10-12 February 2017), except for emergency repair work.

Essential Energy crews will focus instead on minimising the impact of power outages as a result of the heat and are on call to respond to any emergency network incidents.

We apologise for any inconvenience and will reschedule planned power outages to a later date with customers notified in advance.

The extreme weather has also prompted the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to forecast a potential shortfall of generation capacity across NSW this afternoon.

Essential Energy is planning and preparing the network to manage this situation – assessing all options for managing a potential loss of power supply to minimise the impact on our customers.

We are working closely with the AEMO and TransGrid and will follow emergency communications protocols during any load shedding incidents.

Essential Energy encourages customers to stay safe, conserve energy and report any power outages on 13 20 80.

To minimise demand on the network in the extreme heat, household tips for energy efficiency include:

1. Don't overcool your house, adjust air conditioners to 24 degrees or warmer.
2. Keep windows and doors closed and blinds and curtains drawn to keep heat out.
3. Keep the fridge temperature at five degrees and limit the number of times the door is opened.
4. Use fans rather than air conditioners.
5. Switch off lights and appliances when not in use.

Essential Energy will provide further updates as soon as possible. Customers are also encouraged to follow Essential Energy on Facebook, Twitter and via its web page for further updates to help reduce call volumes to the contact centre.

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Essential Energy is the operator of Australia's largest electricity network spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales' land mass. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.