



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee on Environment and Planning

4 December 2024

### MEDIA RELEASE

## Parliamentary committee to inquire into the electricity outages affecting the Far West region of NSW in October 2024

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning has commenced an inquiry into the major electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024.

On 17 October 2024, a severe storm destroyed high voltage transmission lines supplying the Far West with electricity. As a result, towns in the Far West including Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menindee and Tibooburra lost power and, between 17 and 31 October, communities in the region were significantly impacted by blackouts and insecure power supply.

'Communities across the Far West were seriously impacted by these power outages and disruptions for two weeks, which is a situation that we cannot allow to repeat. People were put in a very vulnerable position and those who were affected struggled to communicate or receive information about the power issues,' said Mr Clayton Barr MP, Chair. 'Through this inquiry, we hope to identify recommendations that will reduce the risk of future power disruptions and improve the response when disruptions do occur.'

The NSW Minister for Energy has referred this inquiry to the Committee to better understand what happened, with a particular focus on the preparation and mitigation strategies for an electricity outage in the Far West. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is looking into whether any obligations to provide secure power were breached, and the Australian Energy Regulator is investigating whether the National Electricity Rules were breached.

The Committee will examine the preparation, mitigation and response to the electricity outages. The inquiry will also be looking into the role of NSW government agencies and local government in preparing for and responding to major electricity outages. It will consider any recommendations for future alternative power supply emergency responses and effective back up power.

'We are calling for submissions from impacted communities, a broad range of organisations involved in the emergency response and relevant electricity providers.'

Further information on the inquiry including the terms of reference and how to make a submission is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Submission close on **Monday 10 February 2025**.

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