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MEDIA RELEASE

Have your say – Parliamentary committee heading to Far West towns

Inquiry into the electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024

The NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning is currently conducting an inquiry into the outages that affected Far West NSW from 17 October 2024, after a storm damaged several transmission towers. As part of the inquiry, the Committee will visit the Far West region of NSW in early March to hear directly from affected communities.

'These power outages and disruptions had significant impacts on everyone in the Far West. We knew it was important that we go out to these communities to hear from them directly,' said Mr Clayton Barr MP, Committee Chair. 'The Committee wants to hear from people, organisations and businesses impacted by the outages about their experiences. This will help inform our recommendations to the Government to reduce the risk and severity of future power disruptions.'

The Committee intends to hold public hearings during its time in the region, where it hopes to hear from community groups, key agencies and organisations to better understand issues associated with the power outages.

The Committee will also host the following open-door town hall meetings for community members:

- Menindee Community Hall, Monday 3 March 2025 at 4.30pm to 5.15pm
- Albert Hall, Tibooburra, Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 3.15pm to 4.00pm
- Wilcannia Community Hall, Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 12.15pm to 1.00pm

'These town hall meetings will give locals an opportunity to drop in and voice their experiences. If any community members are interested in speaking directly with the Committee, I would encourage you to contact us.'

Anyone interested in attending these town hall meetings should contact committee staff. To register your interest, please email <u>environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au</u> or call (02) 9230 2151.

Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, is available on the Committee's <u>webpage</u>.

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