

27 March 2025

Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning
Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning,

**NSW Parliament's Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning -
Supplementary questions - Inquiry into the electricity outages affecting Far West NSW
in October 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to supplementary questions from the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Electrical Outages Affecting Far West NSW in October 2024.

Please find ClubsNSW responses in **Appendix A**.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to reach out at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

Simon Sawday
Director of Government Affairs
ClubsNSW

Appendix A: ClubsNSW Responses

Supplementary Question	ClubsNSW Response
1. Do you feel alternative forms of communication were adequately explored?	ClubsNSW's interest in this inquiry, as the peak body for registered clubs, is in connection with the role of our member clubs in supporting the community as evacuation centres. We are not in a position to comment on the Government's communication during the electricity outage.
2. How would you like to see communications between clubs and relevant energy providers better coordinated in the event of future outages?	<p>ClubsNSW supports clear and more direct lines of communication between energy providers and clubs during future outages.</p> <p>Real-time and transparent updates from energy providers to clubs will enable clubs to better support their community, particularly clubs serving as evacuation centres or with backup generators.</p>
3. How could the NSW Government facilitate increasing the capacity of local clubs to provide community relief during electricity supply and other emergencies?	<p>Clubs across NSW regularly step up to support communities in emergencies, often acting as evacuation centres and providing goods and services throughout this time at no cost.</p> <p>The NSW Government could support clubs in taking on this role by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supporting preparedness through grant funding and infrastructure: Many clubs in regional areas do not have the necessary infrastructure to maintain operations in an emergency. Dedicated funding programs or grants, for equipment like commercial grade backup generators, satellite internet, or secure fuel storage, would significantly increase clubs' capacity to support communities during power outages or other emergencies. – Compensating clubs for out-of-pocket emergency costs: Clubs that open their doors as emergency or evacuation centers often incur unplanned expenses, particularly when providing essential services such as electricity, clean drinking water and food supplies to displaced or vulnerable community members. The process and rules by which clubs may be compensated for out-of-pocket expenses is unclear. We recommend that the NSW Government develop clear standards for clubs to recover these expenses, thereby ensuring that they are not financially disadvantaged for stepping up during times of crisis. – Working with clubs in advance, not just during or after an emergency: Clubs are often unaware that they may be designated as an evacuation center for a particular type of emergency (e.g. bushfire vs. cyclone), and, after an emergency

	<p>occurs, clubs commonly do not know when they are “activated” as part of the response. Greater collaboration between local emergency management authorities and clubs through the Local Emergency Management Planning (LEMP) process would help resolve this uncertainty and ensure every club understands its potential role, responsibilities, and triggers, in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recognising and supporting the role of clubs in emergency management planning: Clubs are often at the frontline of response, particularly in regional and remote communities, yet they are not consistently included in formal emergency planning. We encourage the Government to work with ClubsNSW and the broader club network to develop protocols for participation in LEMPs and to ensure appropriate resourcing and reimbursement is available where clubs take on a community relief role.
--	---