

**Submission  
No 8**

**THE ELECTRICITY OUTAGES AFFECTING FAR WEST NSW IN OCTOBER  
2024**

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There are many users of breathing machines in Broken Hill. Talking to many of these people give the same comments.

The immediate, and serious impact was, and is, very frightening, particularly if one was home alone, and many pensioners are, as was in our case at that time.

When using a CPAC, or similar machine, and the power goes out, and naturally you're generally in a deep sleep, your immediate reaction is to panic because you have no air. You then frantically try to remove the mask and trying to take a deep breath, but something is tightly masking your face, like someone is trying to Stifle, suffocate or asphyxiate you. Circumstances make it very difficult to come to terms as to what is happening.

In summary, It was a terrifying period and caused an enormous amount of personal stress, which took time to settle down.

We even had a power pac backup – BUT, Murphys law came into effect:-

1. The power pac needed recharging.
2. The emergency call button was also flat and needed charging.
3. Fumbling in the dark for a torch, only to find that it was also flat and needed charging.
4. In an emergency how would I open the roller door? I am not strong enough to lift it.
5. How do I reach out to/for help?
6. The phone went flat – and needed charging.
7. The landline phone needs power to use.
8. My husband was over 600 Klm's away and I can't ring him anyhow. Phones flat.
9. Fumbling around in the dark is also a danger. Having had several falls, I am extremely cautious, and I'm scared.

10. Eventually you settle down a bit and review the situation. Then you're very tired BUT, can't sleep because you may stop breathing.

11. This then is ongoing – people die in their sleep because of sleep apnea, so you fight it.

12. Can't make a cup of tea – No Power

13. Can't switch on the TV or radio – No Power.

14. No Air cooling – No Power.

15. No Fridge or Freezer = No real Food – No Power.

These are my immediate and frightening effects over many days of "No Power". When one considers the promises that Broken Hill will never have power problems in the future due to our **Solar and wind farms**.

Someone should take ultimate blame for lack of Preparation, Planning and Maintenance which could have resulted in deaths.