

**Submission
No 10**

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

Name: Mrs Helen Murray

Date Received: 3 February 2025

I live in Silverton, Far West NSW and run a small business. When the power outage in question happened, Essential Energy, through the media, called for tourists and visitors to the Far West to reconsider their visit as the power supply was not sufficient to support non-essential, extra people coming into the area. Whilst this was understandable, once the power supply was made stable, there was no media release stating this and letting travellers know that they could then come to the area. This action resulted in the almost immediate end to the tourist season in the Far West, which has left many businesses in a dire financial situation, now struggling to get through the usual quiet period of summer. The \$400 offered to businesses as compensation is simply not enough. Many lost food which cost far more than the \$400 to replace. We still have insurance, rent and wages to pay.

I am also the Secretary of the Silverton Village Committee Inc and it was concerning that not one emergency service department, Essential Energy, welfare organisation, local MP or anyone else, contacted us. Silverton has an aging population with some members of our community with serious health issues. Our community rallied to assist those people with generators etc. The only phone call received to check on us was from Tilt Renewables, who own the Silverton Wind Farm who have very generously implemented a project which will see Silverton residents safe in the event of another power outage. It should be noted that Silverton is located in the Unincorporated Area and not Broken Hill LGA.