

**Submission  
No 11**

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

**Name:** Mrs Barbara Webster

**Date Received:** 4 February 2025

Legislative assembly

Committee of environment and planning,

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

Thank you for the invitation to present a submission into the recent power outages in Broken Hill. I have chosen to address part g:

g) Any other related matters

I was surprised to learn that there could be no way to utilize either the wind farm at Silverton, only 30 or so km away, or the solar farm on the outskirts of Broken Hill, to supply power to our power lines.

Points to consider:-

- 1) Extremely strong & localized gusty winds from thunderstorms regularly cause transmission towers to be whipped around and crumpled causing havoc to consumers and providers. eg 17/10/24 SA's 23 transmission towers & 6 stobie poles with Broken Hill's 7 transmission towers, 13/2/24 Vic's 6 transmission towers, 28/09/16 SA lost 23 pylons.
- 2) As yet there seems to be no requirement for renewable energy farms to supply the local districts with the renewable power they produce, so there is no infrastructure for local storage, transmission, and maybe power surge control.
- 3) The opposition's support of the nuclear industry will also be reliant on few and very long supply lines of poles and wires, which will not address the issue here, that long stretches of high voltage transmission towers will still be at risk, in the national grid.

Possible solution:-

- 1) Plan to continue to replace aging transmission towers with robustly designed and manufactured towers.
- 2) Link poles and wire and other infrastructure from renewable energy sources to local micro and larger grids on their journey to their main destination, making a more resilient grid. This could include linking 'end of lines' in towns with a storage unit so rooftop panels can be of maximum efficiency to also support peak usage times. It would also reduce loss of power from resistance due to long distances travelled. Can use a model of funding to enable govt or locals own their utilities when power companies refuse to abide by new laws requiring them to link a suitable portion of their renewable power into local grids.
- 3) Assuming underground cables are too costly and difficult to monitor for repairs, make it public and repeat the message how nuclear reactors also require long stretches of transmission wires to reach their consumer targets, and have little back up also, when things go haywire from storm events.