

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission



Friday, 20 December 2024

BUILDING POWER NETWORK RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF STORMS

The Allan Labor Government is supporting a resilient electricity distribution network that is more responsive to energy outages and puts Victorian homes and businesses at the heart of emergency responses.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio today released the Government's response to the Network Outage review, supporting all 19 recommendations in full, in part, or in principle.

The Government initiated the independent Network Outage Review following the February 13 storm event, which caused widespread damage to around 12,000 kilometres of powerlines lines, and left over 531,000 customers off power supply at its peak.

Implementing these recommendations will ensure Victoria's privately-owned electricity transmission and distribution businesses are better equipped to prevent, prepare for, and respond to severe weather events.

The Review was led by an Independent Expert Panel, which met with affected communities and ensured that the electricity businesses heard firsthand the experiences of those impacted.

In response to the review, the Government will strengthen oversight and accountability of electricity businesses, by requiring them report on their emergency risk management practices annually, including emergency resources, systems, processes and arrangements with contractors to do repair works.

The Government will help Victorians impacted by prolonged outages get access to emergency funds sooner – the Extended Loss of Supply Support Payment Scheme (ELOSS Payment) will require distribution businesses to financially support customers during prolonged power outages after 72 hours.

The final design of this scheme and payment amounts will be subject to consultation.

The Government will also formalise resource sharing arrangements between all network businesses to ensure they have the right staff in the right place for a quick response to outages and reduce restoration times for customers.

Distribution businesses will also have to participate in Regional Emergency Management Planning Committees and participate emergency exercises to test implementation of these recommendations from the 13 February event.

For more information go to energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/network-outage-review.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio

"We're making sure privately-owned power companies put Victorians first when responding to storm events and make reconnecting Victorians to power supply their priority."

"These changes make sure privately-owned power companies are ready to respond, involving them in emergency planning early and ensuring they have enough resources in the right places to undertake emergency repairs."

Quote attributable to Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino

"We've gone to communities, we've listened to them, and we've built a plan to drive better outcomes for Victorians to ensure the resilience of our transmission network and power is restored as quickly as possible after storm events."

Media contact: Liam Miles 0492 504 682 | liam.miles@minstaff.vic.gov.au