

MEDIA STATEMENT – update as at 1030hrs AEST

Thursday, 29 September 2016

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) advises that at 1618hrs Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) on Wednesday, 28 September 2016, a severe storm damaged transmission and distribution electricity assets in South Australia, leading to a state-wide power outage. Initial investigations have identified the root cause of the event is likely to be the multiple loss of 275 kilovolt (kV) power lines during severe storm activity in the state.

These transmission lines form part of the backbone of South Australia's power system and support supply and generation north of Adelaide. The reason why a cascading failure of the remainder of the South Australia network occurred is still to be identified and is subject to further investigation.

Approximately 1,900 megawatts (MW) was being consumed in South Australia at the time of the power failure, with South Australian generation being supported by 505 MW of supply from Victoria via the Heywood interconnector, and 105 MW of supply from Victoria via the Murraylink DC cable.

AEMO continues to work closely with transmission network service provider ElectraNet, distribution network service provider SA Power Networks and the South Australian and Federal Governments to coordinate the restoration of power supply across the state as safely and as quickly as possible. We would also like acknowledge and thank the broader energy industry across the NEM for their support, assistance and collaborative efforts during this emergency.

Power supply continues to be safely restored across South Australia. By 0100 hrs on Thursday, 29 September 2016, the electrical transmission network from Adelaide to the Victorian border was fully restored, with over 1,000 MW of load being supported from local generation in South Australia, and Victoria via the Heywood interconnector. The Murraylink cable was returned to service at 0154 hrs.

Given the severe weather conditions and potential damage to electricity infrastructure, it is anticipated restoration times across the state will vary, particularly in the northern region, which appears to have received the most damage.

AEMO has been advised that approximately 70,000 of 850,000 customers in South Australia remain off supply. We urge South Australians to take care during this outage and to follow the safety advice and guidelines issued by the South Australian government and emergency services. Given the severe weather events and potential damage to electricity infrastructure, members of the public should be alert to the potential for powerlines and associated equipment to be damaged, and if they see anything, should remain well clear and promptly report the situation to ElectraNet on 08 8404 7966.

AEMO will continue to provide updates on the South Australian power system as the situation progresses. AEMO will be reviewing this event and will be liaising with ElectraNet, SA Power Networks and industry to publish an investigative report in relation to the causes as soon as practicable. Given immediate priority is to restore power as safely and quickly as possible this report will necessarily take some time.

For information on the restoration of supply, please contact ElectraNet on 08 8404 7436.

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ABOUT AEMO

AEMO is responsible for operating Australia's largest gas and electricity markets and power systems, including the National Electricity Market and interconnected power system in Australia's eastern and south-eastern seaboard, and the Wholesale Electricity Market and power system in Western Australia.

AEMO also operates the Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market and the Victorian gas transmission system; the wholesale gas Short Term Trading Market hubs in Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane; the Wallumbilla Gas Supply Hub in Queensland; and the Moomba Gas Supply Hub in South Australia.

As Australia's independent energy markets and power systems operator, AEMO provides critical planning, forecasting and power systems security advice and services to deliver energy security for all Australians. For more information, head to www.aemo.com.au



For information on local supply outages, please visit [SA Power Networks](#).

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