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Communities face outages as State government neglects power supply

Local State MP Tony Simpson has criticised the Carpenter Government for neglecting the power supply of the towns in the Hills and the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

“I don’t think it would surprise anyone that lived in our area to hear that the towns and communities of the Hills and the outer-suburbs have some of the worst power supplies in the metropolitan area,” said Mr Simpson.

Earlier this year Mr Simpson asked the Minister for Energy, Fran Logan a series of questions about power outages in the area. The answers to these questions showed that last year:

- The four communities in the Perth metropolitan area that were the worst affected by power outages were all located in the Hills.
- Gidgegannup was the worst affected locality in the Perth Metropolitan area, suffering from **120 outages in the year**. The longest of these outages lasted for 13 hours with up to **1,775 homes being affected**. The cause of 14 of these outages was unknown.
- Mundaring was the second worst affected locality in the Perth Metropolitan area, with 90 outages lasting up to 11 hours with up to 1,418 homes being affected. The cause of 16 of these outages is unknown and eight were caused by vegetation.
- The community that was third most affected by outages was Stoneville, with 81 outages lasting up to seven hours affecting up to 849 homes. **The causes of 17 of these outages is unknown.**
- Chidlow was the fourth most affected community in the metropolitan area, with 56 outages lasting up to 9 hours and affecting up to 636 homes.
- Keysbrook was rated as the locality that was **fifth most affected by network outages in the Perth metropolitan area**. It suffered 44 outages, with the longest lasting 11 hours, the average duration of all outages being 2 hours.

Also:

- Roleystone suffered 58 outages, with one outage lasting as long as 17.8 hours, the largest outage **affecting 2258 homes and businesses**. 17 of these outages were recorded as being caused by equipment failures. The cause of ten outages remains a mystery.
 - There were **100 outages in Serpentine with the longest lasting for 26 hours**. Of these outages, one affected 819 homes.
 - There were 61 network outages in Mount Helena with the longest lasting for 10.5 hours with the highest number of homes being affected being 1,097.
 - Sawyers Valley suffered 50 outages, with one outage lasting as long as 9.35 hours and as many as 299 homes being affected. 12 of these outages were caused by unknown circumstances and six were caused by lightning.
 - Mundijong suffered 50 outages, the longest of which was 6.2 hours long.
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Tony Simpson MLA

LIBERAL FOR DARLING RANGE

- Byford **suffered 72 outages**, the longest lasting 9.1 hours and the most number of homes and businesses being affected, 820. Planned outages accounted for 24 of the total outages and the cause for 9 outages was unknown.
- Jarrahdale suffered 48 outages, with the longest lasting a total of 8.9 hours.
- Pickering Brook had 33 outages with the longest being 6 hours and the most number of homes being affected being 254. Eight of these outages were caused by vegetation, unknown faults caused five and birds caused four.

“The people of our community are good citizens. We work hard and we pay our taxes, the very least that the Government could do would be to make sure that we had an adequate power supply.

“This is an issue I am very passionate about. My home and my office are both affected by the constant outages we have. When I was a baker, every outage we had cost me money.

“I know how everyone in our community feels about this issue and I will continue to fight to make sure that our communities have the power supply that they need.”

Working for Darling Range
