



4 pm Monday 11 July 2016

## **Crews continuing to restore power following widespread damage to electricity distribution network**

SA Power Networks has all available crews responding to extensive wind and tree-related damage to the electricity distribution network, particularly in the Adelaide Hills.

Some customers are likely to be without power until well into tomorrow due to the extent and widespread nature of damage.

Preliminary estimates suggest that power to at least 20,000 residential and business customers has been affected by outages since winds gusting over 100kmh moved through the State overnight. About 11,000 were still without power at 4pm.

“Given the widespread and significant extent of damage, this is a major restoration operation,” said Paul Roberts, spokesman for SA Power Networks.

“We are not talking about minor repair and restoration jobs, but rebuilding of sections of the network in the Adelaide Hills that have been smashed by trees and tree limbs.

“We have mobilised all available crews and support staff to assist in the response,” he said. “Our first priority has been to ensure the safety of the community, emergency workers and our crews, by attending to downed power lines.

“Given the major nature of the work required and the difficult conditions being confronted by crews, customers should be prepared for long-duration power outages.

“Our crews will be working into the evening, but we also are conscious another significant front will move through the State overnight with the likelihood of further damaging winds.”

Customers can keep a track of expected restoration times via our website – or if they opt for updates when reporting outages to 13 13 66.

“As we work through the outages we will update information on current interruptions,” Mr Roberts said.

“I trust customers will understand the scale of restoration work required, given the highly visible extent of the damage that has occurred and the many hours of repair work at more than 100 sites.

“I also urge all customers to stay clear of any downed power lines and report them to us immediately on 13 13 66.”

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