



27 September 2016

### **Forecast extreme weather a threat to power supplies**

SA Power Networks has all available resources on standby across the State as it prepares for forecast extreme weather conditions through to Friday.

"The forecast is suggesting wind gusts exceeding 90kmh across much of the State and up to 120kmh in the Adelaide Hills," said Paul Roberts, Manager Stakeholder Relations, SA Power Networks.

"Those are winds that bring down trees and tree limbs, which can cause extensive damage to the overhead electricity network."

Mr Roberts said significant thunderstorm activity was also forecast, particularly on Wednesday, with stronger winds moving across the state from Wednesday evening and persisting into Friday.

"On past experience with these kind of storms, we advise customers to be prepared for the potential for extended outages.

"The combination of high winds and thunderstorm activity and the extended and widespread nature of the forecast storm activity will be a challenge. A further issue is that the ground is saturated from recent rain, making it likely that in some areas we will have real issues accessing infrastructure to make repairs and restore power.

"First and foremost people need to stay safe by keeping themselves and others clear of any downed electricity wires and reporting them immediately to us on 13 13 66," Mr Roberts said.

"We recommend ensuring items like smartphones and laptops are kept fully charged and that customers have a battery-powered radio on hand so they can keep in contact with storm and related information."

Outages can be reported online at [sapowernetworks.com.au](http://sapowernetworks.com.au), or by calling 13 13 66.

**Media contact: 0403 582 500**