

November 11, 2019

Planned work cancelled due to catastrophic fire danger

Ausgrid has cancelled planned outages for maintenance at locations across our network due to the catastrophic fire danger forecast for the Greater Sydney and Greater Hunter tomorrow (Tues 12 Nov).

High temperatures, strong winds and low humidity are forecast to create extremely dangerous conditions.

Chief Operating Officer Trevor Armstrong said that given the forecast conditions, a decision has been taken to cancel most planned work across the electricity network.

“Catastrophic fire conditions and temperatures in the high 30s have been predicted across our network.

“The safety of the community and our people is our highest priority and that is why we have cancelled planned maintenance jobs where power would need to be interrupted for extended periods.

“Limited work will proceed but only in cases where it has been deemed safe to do so”, Mr Armstrong said.

Ausgrid has emergency crews ready to respond to any unplanned outages and restore power as quickly as possible.

“With strong winds expected we’re reminding people to stay well back from any fallen powerlines. If you see fallen wires always assume they’re live, stay 8metres away, which is about 2 car lengths and call us on 131388”, Trevor said.

The RFS is advising residents to avoid bushfire prone areas.

Bushfires can cut the power supply to your home or business and Ausgrid is urging customers who rely on medical equipment to be prepared in case of any outages.

“If you rely on a continuous power supply for life support equipment make sure you have a back-up plan in place in case supply is interrupted. Check if a friend or neighbour is available to assist you if needed and keep emergency numbers handy.

“Double check that your back-up battery is fully charged at all times, as understanding how your life support equipment works can be critical during an outage”, Trevor said.

Useful links

For information on power outages go to: ausgrid.com.au/poweroutages

For information for life support customers go to: ausgrid.com.au/lifesupport

Media contact: 02 9966 7985 (between 6am and 8pm)