

Energy in South Australia

What happened on 28 September, 2016

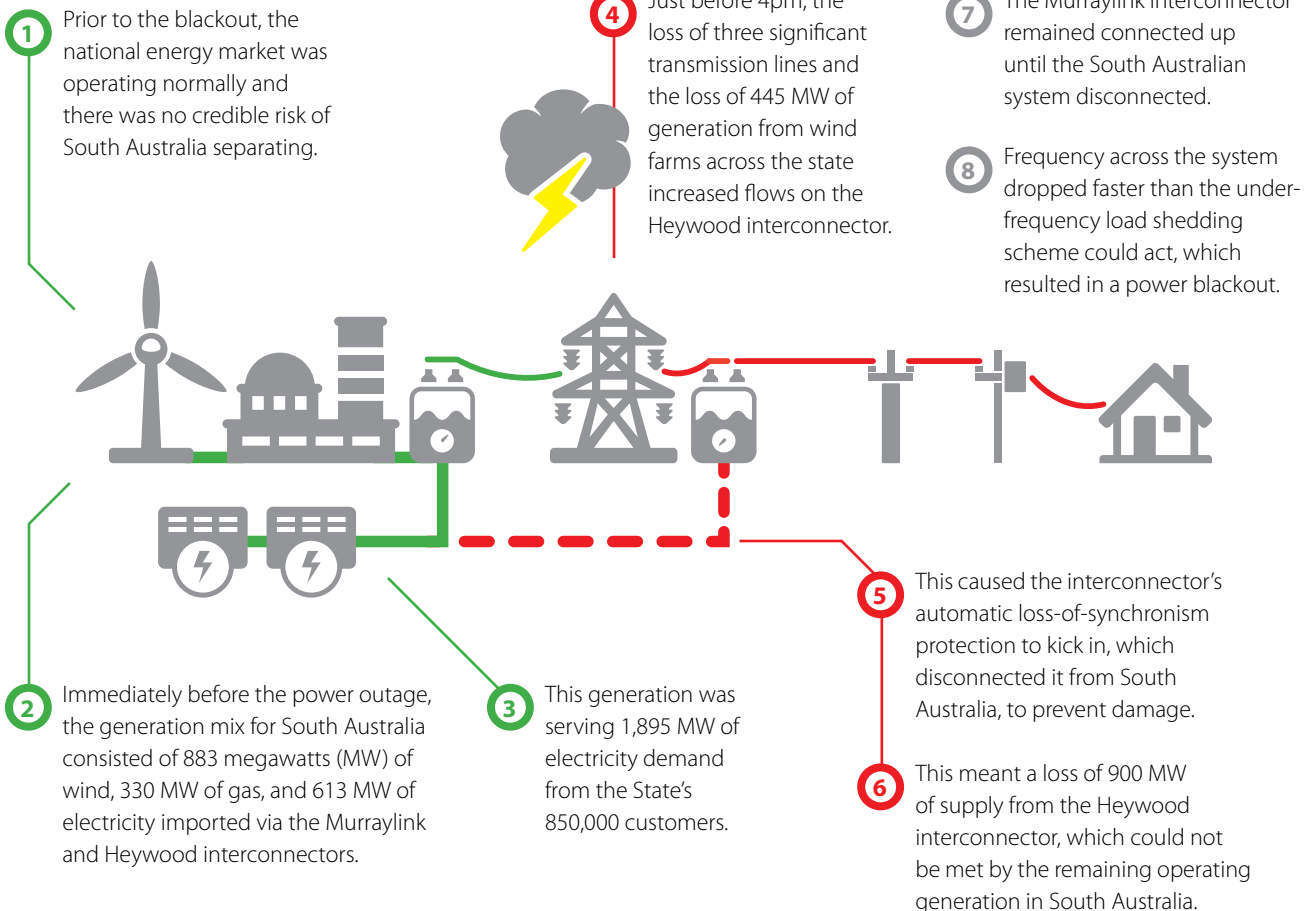
On 28 September 2016, a supercell thunderstorm and tornadoes with wind gusts of up to 260km/h moved through South Australia.

Evidence collected by the Bureau of Meteorology confirmed that tornados destroyed transmission towers, contributing to the loss of power at 3:48pm.

AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET OPERATOR (AEMO) REPORT

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), responsible for operating Australia's largest gas and electricity markets and power systems, published a preliminary report into the event on 5 October 2016, and an updated report on 19 October 2016.

THESE REPORTS FOUND





RESTORATION OF POWER

By 11:30pm on the 28th of September 2016, most of Adelaide's power was restored and by the following day much of the State's electricity was back on.

DID WIND FARMS CONTRIBUTE TO THE BLACKOUT?

Wind farm operation was **not** a factor in the state-wide power failure. Rather, it was the protection system responses to the voltage disturbances.

Nine out of the 13 wind farms operating at the time experienced a sustained reduction of power generation.

AEMO has analysed why these wind farms did not continue operating through the disturbances and it found that turbine settings were too sensitive and therefore tripped prematurely.

AEMO is working with each wind farm operator to re-configure and improve the voltage ride-through settings so they can return to normal operation.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

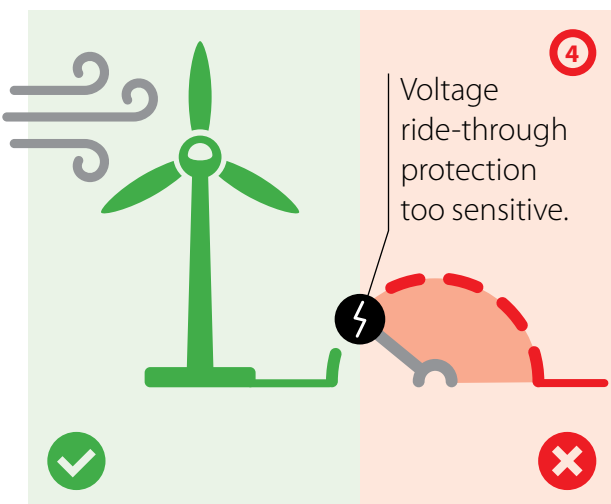
AEMO will conduct a thorough investigation into how each component of the electricity system responded during the event. A report due late 2016 will outline preliminary recommendations.

An independent inquiry, led by former South Australia Police Commissioner Mr Gary Burns, will review and investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident and consider the adequacy of South Australia's prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans.

At the extraordinary COAG Energy Council meeting held on 7 October 2016, energy ministers agreed to a wider independent review. The review will be led by the Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel.

The COAG Energy Council also agreed to direct the Australian Energy Market Commission to review the events in South Australia, building on the technical work currently being conducted by AEMO and the Australian Energy Regulator.

The Essential Services Commission of South Australia will also investigate all generators and network businesses they licence to determine whether there were any compliance issues on 28 September 2016.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY MARKET VISIT

www.dpc.sa.gov.au

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