


NSW residents warned of potential blackouts on Wednesday afternoon as demand for energy to peak amid heatwave

 [skynews.com.au/australia-news/nsw-residents-warned-of-potential-blackouts-on-wednesday-afternoon-as-demand-for-energy-to-peak-amid-heatwave/news-story/9f93ae5386285808ac227f2a4f7ec9c4](https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/nsw-residents-warned-of-potential-blackouts-on-wednesday-afternoon-as-demand-for-energy-to-peak-amid-heatwave/news-story/9f93ae5386285808ac227f2a4f7ec9c4)

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Major power outages have been reported in New South Wales.

Australians have been asked to reduce their energy usage during the hottest period of the day as solar production has not been expected to provide enough power to households during an intense heatwave in NSW.

Premier Chris Minns warned of blackouts amid temperatures soaring above 40C in parts of the state.

"We've been notified by AEMO that there are insufficient reserves in terms of generation available over the coming day," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Mr Minns revealed the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the NSW government have pursued "proactive measures" to reduce energy demand from major users and significant utilities over the next 12 hours.

"Lastly, the government is asking individual households and businesses to, wherever possible, wherever it's safe, consider not using energy intensive appliances between the hours of 3pm and 8pm this afternoon," he said.

"The reason for that is that solar production in the energy market starts to come off from 3pm at exactly the same time as people return home from work.

"So if you can not run your pool filter and not run your dishwasher and not run your washing machine this afternoon between 3pm and 8pm, you'll help the grid."

This comes after Sky News Political Contributor Chris Uhlmann warned Australians were on a "pathway to poverty" due to reduced energy grid supply.



The energy market operator has forecast potential blackouts on Wednesday between 3:30pm and 5pm when the demand for electricity will be at one of its highest. Picture: iStock

"I think that it's an absolute national scandal and what's happening is we're being put on a pathway to poverty - and start listening to some of the language that will come out of places like AEMO and the government," Mr Uhlmann said.

"You'll hear things like demand management. What does that mean? It means blackouts. It means that you'll be asked to turn your equipment down or it'll be turned off by the government in the end, and industry will be asked to shut down."

Residents have been warned of potential power blackouts between 3.30pm to 5pm when the grid is set to come under pressure from high energy use as families try to cool down with air conditioning.

A number of offline power generation units due to planned maintenance works has also contributed to the tightness in electricity supply.

An AEMO spokesperson told SkyNews.com.au there was an increased blackout risk in the one-and-a-half-hour timeframe due to a forecast fluctuation in electricity demand.

In an earlier statement, the AEMO said it is looking to obtain emergency power reserves to best manage the low electricity supply forecast for Wednesday afternoon.

This process is known as the Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader (RERT), which is managed by the AEMO.

It can be brought in when there are concerns the power grid's energy supply cannot meet the anticipated demand.

Part of this process enables the AEMO to call upon businesses to scale back their energy load from the grid.



Temperatures will nudge the 40s on Wednesday. Picture: Brook Mitchell/Getty Images
There are meant to be 12 power-generation units, but four have been put out of action due to maintenance and breakdowns, adding more stress to the power grid.

AEMO will negotiate with companies who consume large amounts of energy to reduce usage on Wednesday to ensure residents are not left without electricity.

It could pay the biggest users to stop their energy use.

However, if they cannot come to an agreement AEMO may cut power.

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In an earlier statement on Wednesday, the operator said the risk of generation outages will remain a risk on Thursday.

"AEMO is actively managing the situation and has issued updated Lack of Reserve (LOR) notices, urging industry participants to respond to projected demand requirements in the coming days," it said on Wednesday morning.

"Additional measures may be necessary if supply forecasts worsen due to unexpected generation or transmission outages, or if demand rises beyond current expectations.

"AEMO has not currently asked residents or businesses in NSW to use less energy during these heatwave conditions."

