



**Don Harwin**  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for the Arts

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Friday, 10 February 2017

### **MINISTER THANKS HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES**

I want to thank the people of NSW for their patience and understanding, particularly to those who reduced their energy use this afternoon.

Whilst there were localised faults in the distribution network, which are not uncommon on extreme weather days, at this stage NSW has avoided load shedding. We appreciate the understanding and patience from those who lost power for a period of time.

The Australian Energy Market Operator has informed me that the worst is passed us today but that they will remain vigilant in monitoring the situation over the weekend. We continue to encourage moderation from households and businesses.

This is an extraordinary heatwave, and a day of record demand. The NSW government is 100% committed to energy security in NSW.

We cannot be complacent in the face of extreme weather, and with the pressing need for energy market reform. I will be raising this with my colleagues at COAG Energy Council next week.

I will also be establishing an Energy Security Taskforce. This Taskforce will report to me on ways we can better manage the impact of extreme weather on energy security, including our readiness, planning, preparation and response capability. Further details will be announced in the coming days.

I want to thank all the NSW electricity generators and their workforces – gas, coal, hydro, wind and solar – for each playing a part to weather the heatwave.

I would also like to thank the 350,000 households with rooftop solar who contributed today to our network. It took all generation working together, and households and businesses moderating their use.

The NSW Government has been active in encouraging businesses, Government agencies, Sydney Water and the Commonwealth Government to reduce demand to keep residential customers connected.

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