



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into West Belconnen supercell thunderstorm

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From: [REDACTED]
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West Belconnen Supercell Thunderstorm

Yes, I had the power off for 5 days and lost 2 freezer loads of food. My age is 73 years and lived alone at the time with my cat.

There was no phone (unable to charge), no radio/TV (no power), no hot water (the gas needs electricity to operate), no cooking (electricity only). Surprisingly I did have some candles.

My big gripe was there was no communication, not even a politician or Electricity spokesperson to be seen to say "matter in hand". I knew Kippax Center was closed but never knew when it re-opened.

This was an act of nature and reflected on my poor preparation for such circumstances. It will happen more often in the future with renewable energy reliance (trust me on this one).

Apart from the lack of communication, what I missed the most was the ability to make a cup of coffee (with milk). Someone could have sent around a coffee van, sort of like "Mr. Whippy" but for adults and some form of communication in the process.

It was unfortunate for me that I had nowhere to go during the power outage, pointless to buy food and supplies, but the Cat did survive also.

The cleanup in this area was slow but there was some activity and one cannot be too critical as only so much can be done with existing resources.

This power outage reflects poorly on me and my preparedness but "Where were the Politicians?" in the aftermath. Not a one came to my street as I was here the whole time during the power outage.

My only suggestion to this issue is for the politicians to organize a coffee van to demonstrate they are there to help and do something useful and find out what is going on and who the vulnerable people are given all communications were down. (Even an ACT government official could have been a mouth piece for communication).

Graham Cutler

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21 April 2022