

Assessment of Network Outage Event on 22 November 2025 – Power and Water Corporation

On 8 January 2026, Power and Water Corporation (PWC) submitted a report to the Commission in accordance with clause 5.4.2 of the [Electricity Industry Performance Code](#) (the Code), advising of its intention to exclude a network outage event in the Darwin region on 22 November 2025 from certain network performance reporting (adjusted category performance indicators) and [guaranteed service levels](#) in accordance with clauses 7.2.3(f) and 4.1.7 and of the Code, respectively. This is an assessment of PWC's report under clause 5.5 of the Code for the purpose of verifying that the network outage event was outside the control of PWC.

Obligations

PWC holds a [network licence](#) granted under Part 3 of the [Electricity Reform Act 2000](#) which authorises it to own and operate electricity networks, including in the Darwin Katherine power system. PWC is required to comply with the Code, which includes performance reporting requirements and [guaranteed service levels](#).

The Code sets out certain exclusions from network performance reporting and [guaranteed service level](#) payments, including natural events identified as statistical outliers by the US Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 2.5 beta method (the beta method). The beta method is a statistical method to identify network outage events that are outside normal operational boundaries

The Commission has an obligation under section 5.4.4 of the Code to verify that the event on 22 November 2025 was outside of PWC's control.

Event

On 22 November 2025, Severe Tropical Cyclone Fina impacted Darwin and the surrounding region, causing trees and debris falling onto and damaging electricity distribution infrastructure across the Darwin region. The damages resulted in prolonged network outages in various suburbs. As the network licensee, PWC notified the Commission that a natural event occurred, which was, or may be identified as a statistical outlier using the beta method. On 8 January 2026 PWC submitted its report to the Commission in accordance with the Code, proposing to exclude events commencing on 22 November for the Darwin and surrounding area from adjusted category performance reporting and [guaranteed service level](#) payments.

Assessment

The beta method refers to a statistical outlier as a 'major event day' (MED). A MED is a day in which the daily system average interruption duration index (SAIDI) exceeds a threshold value (TMED).

The Commission assessed the network outage data with reference to the beta method and found that the network outage event on 22 November 2025 was a statistical outlier for the purposes of section 5.4.1 of the Code, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Commission’s findings of the network outage event on 22 November 2025

Network	Network outage event date	TMED	Daily SAIDI	MED
Darwin	22-11-2025	15.96	597.2	Yes

Outcome

The Commission has verified the network outage event that occurred in the Darwin and surrounding area on 22 November 2025 was due to a natural event and is a statistical outlier using the beta method and was therefore outside the control of PWC. As such, the Commission considers the event an excluded event for the purposes of PWC’s performance reporting and [guaranteed service level](#) payments under the Code.