

**KAIKOHE**

Wednesday 7 February 2007



## **Far North storm causes power cut havoc**

Local lines company, Top Energy is advising Far North power consumers that its network is currently experiencing widespread power outages across the region.

This is mainly due to heavy rain and lightening strikes as the Far North today continues to be buffeted by what a special MetService bulletin has described as "continued very heavy rain and thunderstorms". Up to 100mm of rain can be expected in some Far North districts, as rain is forecast to fall at a rate of 25mm per hour.

According to Top Energy General Manager Network Assets, Ajay Anand line engineer crews have been working hard to restore power to affected areas right through Tuesday night and this morning. "Depending on what this weather front throws at us today, we're hopeful we can restore power to most areas by 5:00pm today. But our crews are pretty exhausted having worked all night and for safety reasons they need to get some rest before they can go out there again", he said.

Power consumers, who may be without power after 5.00pm this evening, are asked to call Top Energy's Information Line on 0800 867 363 with details of any area affected. END

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