

News Release



Friday, 3 April 2009

CBD cable repairs underway after crews locate fault

EnergyAustralia crews have begun repairing the damaged power cable which caused an interruption to the power supply in parts of Sydney on Monday evening.

Specialist staff pinpointed the exact location of the fault on Tuesday afternoon, which is underground at Circular Quay.

We believe the fault was caused by a slight compression of the cable as a result of soil settlement, which affected the cable's insulation.

It appears that over time, the land around the cable area has been filled due to development, which has caused the ground to settle and compress the cable slightly, weakening the insulation in one area.

More detailed investigations are continuing to confirm our preliminary findings.

This type of 132,000 Volt cable contains copper conductor wrapped in layers of insulation material. The insulation is covered with cable fluid and encased in an aluminium sheath. This sheath is covered in a final layer of plastic.

EnergyAustralia is continuing to investigate why this fault caused the automatic shutdown of the three other 132,000 Volt cables that supply part of the CBD and eastern suburbs.

EnergyAustralia has started the cable repairs, which are expected to take up to ten weeks to complete and return to service.

We are working with the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Sydney Ports, and the Police to make sure there is minimal disruption to the area while this work takes place.

EnergyAustralia again apologises to everyone affected by the interruption to the power supply on Monday evening and thanks them for their patience and understanding.

After EnergyAustralia restored the power supply within two hours, it redirected supply from other parts of the network to provide additional support to the CBD.

We have taken extra steps to strengthen the network while these repairs take place.

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