WAIPĀ NETWORKS

KĀWHIA ELECTRICITY FUTURE ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

Thank you to everyone who has shared their experiences and thoughts with us so far about electricity supply in Kāwhia and surrounding rural areas. The survey, alongside conversations with the community, is helping us build a clearer picture of what matters most. This summary highlights the main themes and the areas we will continue to explore.

Five key themes emerged from the survey responses and wider community engagement. These themes bring together the issues and priorities that came through most consistently across the feedback we received.



Affordability

- Keeping electricity affordable is a key priority.
- Cost matters when considering future improvements.
- Affordability needs to be balanced with reliability and resilience.



Outages & Reliability

- Current reliability was rated reasonably well.
- Reliability was generally seen as staying the same or improving.
- Fewer outages was identified as an important priority.



Everyday impacts

- Food storage and refridgeration are a major concern during outages.
- Water supply is particularly important for rural customers.
- Outage impacts increase as outages extend for several hours or longer.

Communication

- People want clearer updates, including when power is expected back on.
- Confirmation that Waipā Networks knows about the outage is important.
- Text is the preferred way to receive updates.

Resilience & Future

- Many people have limited or no backup options during longer outages.
- Keeping essential community services operating was identified as important.
- Interest in solar, batteries and other local energy options has also come through.

Looking ahead

We are now moving into the next stage of this work, using what we've heard from the community alongside network information and technical assessments to help inform future planning.

This will involve exploring potential improvements in the shorter term, while considering longer-term options and how these may respond to the area's changing needs.

There is still work to do before decisions are made. We will continue to engage with the community as options are developed, and share updates on how feedback is helping shape our direction.