

Cook islands power outages

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Last night's power outage lasted for about 40 minutes in some areas a statement issued last night, electricity provider Te Aponga Uira (TAU) said there was an "unexpected" power outage as at 6.48pm.

As of 7.17pm, the power was restored to those affected areas except for those customers from St Marys (Arorangi) to Papaaroa (Titikaveka). The power was fully restored to all customers affected as of 7.28pm.

These consecutive outages have left residents, especially business owners, demanding answers. They want to know why this is happening, particularly after TAU's recent announcement of the completion of a major infrastructure project to improve Rarotonga's power grid.

Responding to TAU's statement posted on its Facebook page last night, a popular fast-food operator commented: "This can't keep going on specially when we are in the middle of service ... Just think about that for a moment. Well hurry up and fix it! I have customers waiting and you are costing us money."

In response, Te Aponga Uira said: "We want to acknowledge there have been a few unexpected power cuts over the past fortnight, impacting different parts of the island. We are investigating the cause of these cuts and will be advising the public soon."

In a statement released on Friday, TAU said it had completed its major project to replace critical infrastructure (generation switch gear) in its generation site in Avatiu valley, aimed at strengthening the reliability of the electricity supply for Rarotonga.

"TAU strives to provide reliable electricity to all customers 24/7 however planned and unplanned outages due to upgrades and other events do occur occasionally. As is our current practice, we will notify you about events through Facebook, our website and if time allows, via the traditional media platforms."

From left: Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister Sonny Williams with Prime Minister Mark Brown and Te Aponga Uira (TAU) staff during a radio talkback show yesterday explaining the power outages.
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