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FRAGILE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN POWER NETWORK FAILS AGAIN

The total failure of South Australia's electricity network last night is another warning sign of the consequences of its ideological march towards renewables, according to free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"While the initial cause may have been a once-in-50-year storm, in fact the Australian Energy Market Operator is still investigating how this led to 'a cascading failure of the remainder of the South Australian network,'" said Brett Hogan, Director of Research at the Institute of Public Affairs.

"Cold weather can kill you if you are not wearing any clothes, but the cold doesn't hurt you by itself."

"Electricity networks have one job – to provide reliable, affordable and safe electricity 24 hours day, 7 days a week. In a modern 21st century industrial economy that enjoys considerable coal, gas and uranium resources, this is not too much to ask."

"However, this is not the first time that we have seen major problems in South Australia. Last November's power outage, this year's price surges and its increasing reliance on its interconnector with Victoria are all evidence of a system under severe stress."

"It is telling that one of the few remaining gas-fired power stations at Pelican Point had to be called on last night to re-boot the network given that wind turbines are unable to turn themselves on."

"Last night South Australians witnessed a preview of the future Green utopia where the carbon budget has been exceeded and consumption must be limited. They would now be the first to insist that a world without reliable electricity is not a very nice place in which to live."

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