

## MEDIA RELEASE

Perth, WA

28 November 2024

### ETU WA Members Pause Industrial Action in Light of Bushfire Impact

ETU WA members are acutely aware of the devastating impact the recent bushfires have had on the communities surrounding Wedge, Cervantes & Jurien Bay. In a show of solidarity and care for the community, members have today endorsed the cessation of all planned Protected Industrial Action. This decision reflects their commitment to supporting those affected during this challenging time.

“This is about looking out for the broader community,” said ETU WA Secretary Adam Woodage. “Our members have shown they are not only dedicated to fighting for fair treatment and conditions but are also willing to put those efforts aside when it’s in the best interests of the community.”

Although no significant interruptions to the network have been reported at this stage, our members remain mindful of the potential strain on infrastructure as the bushfire season approaches. With three current Emergency Warnings for bushfires today, the union recognises the importance of maintaining readiness and resilience during this high-risk period.

Earlier today, Western Power members held a 24-hour work stoppage - ending at midnight tonight - and rallied in front of Parliament House, calling out the government for its protracted approach to bargaining and its failure to hold Western Power accountable for the careless treatment of employees.

“We’ve reached a critical point in this dispute,” Woodage added. “Western Power’s refusal to meaningfully engage with us - offering little more than a 10-minute meeting - is disrespectful to the workers who keep the lights on in WA. We are calling on the government to step up and ensure Western Power meets with us to bargain in good faith.”

The union hopes the Jurien Bay community sees this pause in industrial action as an act of compassion and solidarity.

"This is not the end of our fight," Woodage said. "We will continue pushing for fair pay and conditions for Western Power employees while demonstrating our respect for the communities we serve."

#### **Quotes attributed to Adam Woodage – ETU WA Secretary**

"The decision to pause industrial action reflects the values our members hold dear – supporting the community in times of need while continuing the fight for fair treatment in the workplace. We hope this act of solidarity with the community sends a clear message: while we're committed to fair conditions for workers, we'll never put community safety at risk."

"It's frustrating that Western Power has offered little more than token engagement during this process. Our members deserve respect and real commitment to resolving this dispute. Western Power and the government must take responsibility for ensuring fair outcomes for workers, especially when these are the people keeping the lights on across the state."

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