

Lessons from the Maui pipeline outage

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Discussion

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Requested actions

1. The Council is requested to consider the presentation from Steve Bielby and Ian Dempster of the Gas Industry Company (GIC) and:
 - (a) identify whether the electricity industry is suitably prepared to respond to an event of a similar type;
 - (b) identify whether additional measures should be adopted by the electricity industry when responding to significant events affecting major gas infrastructure;
 - (c) identify whether any of the conclusions reached by the gas industry should be considered within the security of supply and emergency planning framework for the electricity sector; andas necessary, request that the secretariat develop a report encompassing these issues for discussion at the next SRC meeting.

Context

2. The Maui natural gas pipeline was shutdown from Tuesday 25 October to Sunday 30 October when the pipeline split and required emergency repairs. The event was identified as a critical contingency incident for the gas industry. The majority of the gas-fired electricity generation fleet was required to shutdown during the outage - that also affected supplies to commercial and industrial gas consumers.
3. The Gas Industry Company has been conducting a review of the outage and will present some of the findings of that review to the SRC. (The presentation has not been included with the papers as the review has yet to be concluded).