

What about my electronic equipment?

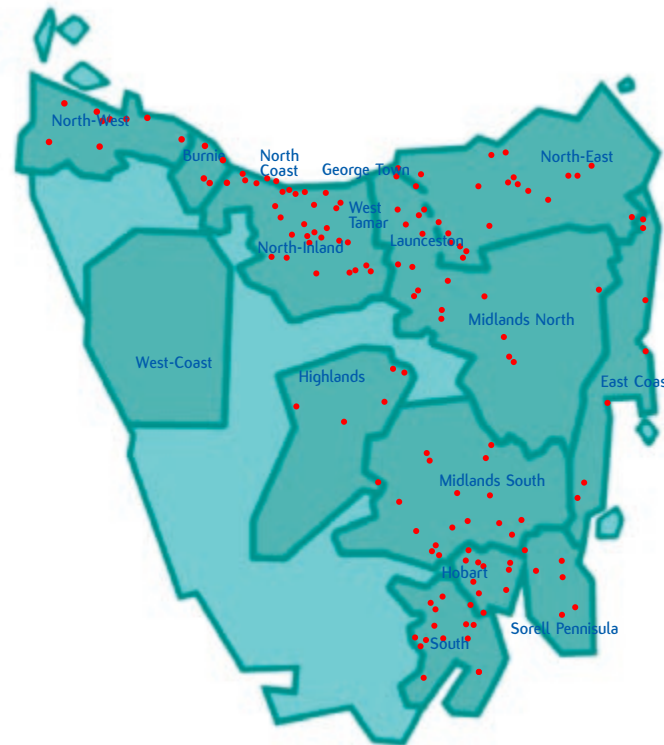
Minor variations in your power supply aren't a problem for most electrical appliances – but sensitive electronic equipment can be affected. Resetting the clock on your oven or VCR isn't a major issue but if computers crash or irrigation timers turn off, the results can be more serious.

It makes good sense to protect sensitive equipment by installing an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). These clever devices use an internal battery that maintains electricity supply for up to 20 minutes, giving you long enough to shut down computers safely.

UPS systems are not hugely expensive and are a sensible investment in peace of mind and security.

For information regarding suppliers of protection devices for sensitive equipment look under "Electrical Switches and Control Equipment" in your Yellow Pages or call Aurora on 1300 132 045

There are approximately 200 reclosers strategically placed around the State. This map indicates their location.



Information is current as at November 2003.
©Aurora Energy Pty Ltd 2003. ABN 85 082 464 622



Momentary Power Interruptions and how this 'box of tricks' can help

They're called reclosers and you've probably seen them on power poles near you.

But do you know how – and why – they work?

TO REPORT A POWER FAILURE CONTACT AURORA ON 13 2004



Culprit - or hero?

Yes, it's annoying when the electricity supply we take for granted fluctuates unexpectedly.

When these temporary interruptions happen, it could be the box of tricks on the pole that's the cause.

But before you judge them too harshly, we'd like to explain how our reclosers are actually protecting you against the possibility of more serious and longer-lasting problems.

You'd be surprised how many things can get in the way of powerlines, especially in country areas.

Very strong winds may cause lines to clash.

Branches and bark often fall across the lines.

Lightning strikes, birds and animals can all trigger supply interruptions. Even irrigation spray can be enough to cause a problem.

Imagine if every event like this caused a full power shut-down! That's exactly what the reclosers are there to stop.

What is a momentary power interruption?

How do they work?

When a fault occurs on our powerlines from say, a piece of bark, blown over lines by the wind the recloser detects the fault and briefly turns the power off to allow it to clear. After several seconds it turns the power back on and (if the line is clear) the power stays on. If the fault remains, the recloser may operate up to four times in a very short period.

While the recloser is trying to clear the fault your power will go off and on. Your digital clocks will have to be reset, and although we know what a nuisance that can be, it's not as inconvenient as a longer interruption – which would be the likely result without the action of the recloser.

If the problem is more serious – e.g. the powerlines are damaged – the power will stay off until the damage can be found and repaired. This could take a few hours in some locations. However the beauty of reclosers is that they can isolate the fault whilst restoring power to the majority of customers.

It's a better solution than the old system of having to shut down the whole line to locate the fault.

A momentary (or temporary) power interruption is defined as a power outage of less than one minute duration that leaves no permanent damage to the powerline. If the power is off for longer than a minute it is counted as an outage.

