



PILBARA UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT



Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development and Lands



Underground Power Supply Underway in Karratha and South Hedland commencing soon

Quarter four of 2011 was an exciting time for Karratha with the first Horizon Power customers connected to a safer, more reliable underground electricity network.

The work was completed as part of the Pilbara Underground Power Project (PUPP) which aims to provide cyclone prone North West towns with a safer and more reliable power supply, replacing ageing overhead electricity infrastructure with underground networks. The project will underground the distribution networks in Karratha, South Hedland, Onslow and Roebourne and will include new streetlights and demolition of the old network.

The project is a partnership between the Government of Western Australia (through Pilbara Cities) and Local Government Authorities and is delivered by Horizon Power.

To date, 118 customers in Karratha are already connected to the new underground network and the South Hedland component of the project is now in preparation stage with Horizon Power's contractor setting up a base in Wedgfield and work due to commence in late January 2012. Port Hedland's electricity network was placed underground in 2007 and now community members in neighbouring South Hedland are eagerly anticipating their turn to benefit from connecting to the underground network.

Horizon Power Engineering and Projects General Manager Peter Jensen explained that beyond the immediate safety and reliability benefits, underground power also offers a long-term positive legacy.

"It is well known that underground networks suffer fewer outages during cyclones, eliminate the dangers caused by fallen powerlines and improve the aesthetic appeal of the communities. Beyond these immediate and obvious benefits, this upgraded infrastructure will facilitate and support longer-term social and economic growth in the region.





"It is extremely exciting for Horizon Power to be able to contribute to this growth in a positive way and play a part in the region achieving the Pilbara Cities vision," he said.

Although running a little behind the original schedule, the project is progressing well and is due to be completed in 2013. More information about the project can be found at www.horizonpower.com.au

