

PILBARA UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT



Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development and Lands



UPDATE

November 2010

Karratha Project - Bulgarra Pilot Cell commences

The Pilbara Underground Power Project (PUPP) is a partnership between the WA Government (through Royalties for Regions) and the Shire of Roebourne, delivered by Horizon Power. The project aims to provide cyclone affected North West towns with a safe and reliable power supply, by replacing ageing overhead electricity infrastructure with underground networks. The project will dramatically improve safety and reduce the likelihood of power outages to essential services, residents and businesses during, and immediately following, adverse weather events.

The project will cover Karratha, South Hedland, Onslow and the remaining overhead network in Roebourne. A voltage upgrade to the distribution network in Karratha will also form part of the project. This upgrade is required to meet the power needs of

this growing community both now, and into the future.

The works to underground the entire distribution network throughout Karratha will commence with the Bulgarra Pilot Cell, which includes the following streets:

- Finnerty Street
- Viveash Way
- Wickerson Way
- Padbury Way
- Gregory Way

Following the pilot cell, the work will proceed continuously throughout the rest of the town.





How the work will take place

Timeline

The work will commence in Bulgarra before moving to other areas of Karratha. Work in the Bulgarra area is scheduled for completion in early 2011. Project timelines are subject to change and are largely dependent on weather conditions.

Property services

The project contractor O'Donnell Griffin will install an underground cable from the front boundary to the meter box of properties that have an overhead connection. This work should only take a day or two. The cable is installed using underground drilling or open trenching, depending on the location. It will usually occur from where the connection pillar (green dome) is to be installed, to the nearest point of the building. The cable will not be connected until changeover to the new underground network takes place.

Street services

Power cables will be installed under the verge in each street using directional drilling or open trenching, depending on the location. A number of holes are necessary for the drilling process, cable jointing and to enable the connection of pillars to the network. O'Donnell Griffin will repair any disturbance to verges, with work expected to take approximately 14 days. Some work to street services may take longer near equipment cabinets or on street corners. Residents will be advised of any restrictions on access to their properties or any necessary street closures.

Installing connection pillars

A green mini pillar or a slightly larger universal pillar will be installed just inside the front boundary of private property. The locations of all connection pillars will be determined after considering existing infrastructure and the ease of installing the property service. Where possible, the connection pillar will be installed in every second property to serve two properties.

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Around 10% of the connection pillars are universal pillars and these are larger because they contain circuit control equipment. The locations of these have already been determined as they are essential for the management of the network in the immediate area.

New streetlights

As part of the project, new lights will be installed approximately one metre from the edge of the roadway and will be closer together. Their locations are often very different to the old streetlights as the layout is designed to conform as closely as possible to the relevant Australian Standard. Queries relating to streetlight positions should be directed to Horizon Power. Most of the new lights will be installed and switched on in stages as electricity is connected to sections of the underground electricity network. Some new lights may be in the same location as existing lights. In this case, the new lights will be installed once the existing lights have been removed.

Changeover to the new underground network

Changeover from the existing overhead system to the new underground system will take place once the project contractor has completed work to install the new property and street services. It is estimated that a power interruption of around two hours will be required at this time, unless there are unforeseen circumstances. Residents will be given written notification of the changeover three days prior to it happening and a representative from O'Donnell Griffin will notify those that are home immediately prior to turning the power off.

Removal of the overhead network

Horizon Power will be removing the existing overhead electricity network as soon as possible after all properties have been changed over to the new underground network. However, some existing poles that provide power to other areas of town that are not underground at that time, will need to remain until they are no longer required.



Pictured above: A green mini pillar

Transmission lines

There is one main transmission line within Karratha that will remain overhead. This is the large power line on the southern side of Dampier Road.

Is my verge likely to be damaged during this work?

These works are a major civil project. Even with the non-invasive methods used, some disruption to verges and front gardens may occur. All verges and work areas will be recorded before work commences so it can be repaired to a similar standard after the work takes place.

Property owners/residents should direct any queries about verge repairs to O'Donnell Griffin, as they are responsible for all reinstatements and repairs. The various notifications sent to residents during the project will contain the contractor's contact details.

Property owners/residents will not be reimbursed for work done by any other party to reinstate or repair damage caused by the contractor during the work without O'Donnell Griffin's prior authorisation. O'Donnell Griffin reserve the right to charge for time taken to investigate complaints that are subsequently shown to be clearly unrelated to the underground power work.

Keeping the community informed

Horizon Power will keep the local community and other stakeholders informed about this project as the work progresses.

In addition to project updates, residents will be informed in writing prior to work commencing in their street, of any expected power interruptions and once they are receiving power from the underground network.

There will also be updates in local newspapers. Please read the information provided to understand how the work will be carried out and who to contact if you have any questions. Your feedback is welcome and will be actively sought at the completion of the project.

The Pilbara Underground Power Project will greatly improve the overall amenity of the area and bring significant benefits in terms of safety, security and continuity of power supply. We assure you of our commitment to carry out the work with as little impact on property and occupiers as possible, and ask for your cooperation and understanding.

If you would like further information about this project, please contact Horizon Power on (08) 9159 7250 or the Shire of Roebourne on (08) 9186 8555.

Please retain this newsletter until the works are complete.



For further information please visit www.horizonpower.com.au, email pupp@horizonpower.com.au or call us on (08) 9159 7250.