

UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT



Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development and Lands



UPDATE

September 2011

Prepare for a change

Work to underground your power has commenced

The Pilbara Underground Power Project (PUPP) is a partnership between the Government of Western Australia (through Royalties for Regions Pilbara Cities Initiative) and Local Government Authorities, delivered by Horizon Power.

The project aims to provide cyclone affected North West towns with a safe and reliable power supply, replacing ageing overhead electricity infrastructure with underground networks. It 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 underground the entire distribution network in Karratha, South Hedland, Onslow and Roebourne, including full installation of the new network, new streetlights and demolition of the old network. A voltage upgrade to the distribution network in Karratha will also form part of the project and this will help to meet the power needs of this growing community both now, and into the future.

Work in Karratha commenced in October 2010 in Bulgarra and along Dampier Road, and will proceed throughout the rest of the town. Work should be completed in the first quarter of 2012. Timelines are subject to change and are largely dependent on weather conditions.



Verges and gardens

Installing underground power is a major civil project. All verges and work areas are recorded before work commences so they can be repaired to a similar standard after the work takes place. Care will be taken at all times to minimise the impact of this work on your property. However, some disruptions to verges and front gardens will occur.

Unless prior consent is obtained, we will not accept any responsibility, or provide any reimbursement, for repairs or reinstatements carried out by any other party. We reserve the right to charge for time taken to investigate complaints that are subsequently shown to be clearly unrelated to the underground power work.

For further information on the work about to commence in your area, or for repair and reinstatement enquiries please contact **O'Donnell Griffin on 08 9185 9012**.



Four stages of work

This is a major civil project that has four stages of work:



1 PREPARE



The power services at all residential and commercial premises that currently have an overhead connection will be checked to ensure they are suitable for the changeover process. If a problem is found at this time, further work to upgrade the existing installations may be required before the changeover can occur.

Photos of the work areas will be taken prior to construction starting to ensure they are repaired to a similar standard once work is finished.

Impact on you

If re-wiring work is required, and the switchboard is located inside the premises, access and a **power outage of up to four hours** will be necessary to enable this work to occur. The owner or occupier will be contacted to arrange access, and will be notified at least three days prior to the power interruption.

If a major pre-existing electrical fault is identified during the inspections, the power to the premises may be disconnected and a fault note issued to the owner or occupier.

UPDATE

2 CONSTRUCT



An underground cable will be installed from the front boundary to the meter box of the premises. This work should take a day or two.

An underground cable will also be installed under the street verge. A number of holes are necessary for the drilling process and cable jointing, and to enable pillar connection to the network. This work should take around 14 days.

Green connection pillars will be installed inside the front boundary, and in most cases these will be located in every second property to service two dwellings.

If the main switch is located inside the premises, re-wiring work may be required between the meter box and the switchboard.

Impact on you

If re-wiring work is required, and the switchboard is located inside the premises, access and a **power interruption of up to four hours** will be necessary to enable this work to occur. The owner or occupier will be contacted to arrange access, and will be notified at least three days prior to the power interruption.

The external cables between the front boundary to the meter box, and along the street verge will be installed using underground drilling or open trenching. The contractor will door knock before work on private property commences.

There may be some disturbance in your area as this work is undertaken. We assure you of our commitment to carry out the work with as little impact on property owners and occupiers as possible.

3 CHANGE



Changeover to the new underground system will take place once all property and street services in the immediate area are installed.

Impact on you

A **power interruption of up to four hours** will be required during the changeover stage. Owners and occupiers will be notified in writing at least three days prior to this happening.

Access will be required if the switchboard is located inside the premises. The owner or occupier will be contacted to arrange this.

4 COMPLETE



The carryover or service pole located at the front boundary of private property will be removed as it will no longer be required. This pole belongs to the property owner however it will be removed at the completion stage unless Horizon Power is notified otherwise.

The old overhead power lines will be removed as soon as possible after all premises have been connected to the new underground network.

New streetlights will be installed and will be switched on in stages. Their location will be designed to conform as closely as possible to the relevant Australian standard.

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

Impact on you

Some activity will take place along verges and streets as old power lines are removed and new streetlights are installed.

Keeping you informed

Horizon Power will keep you informed about this project as the work progresses. In addition to project updates, you will be informed in writing prior to any expected power interruptions.

There will also be updates in local newspapers. Please read the information provided which will explain the work and who to contact for more information. 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 Karratha 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.

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.