

power

line

environment

committee

Annual report 2015-2016

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# Chairperson's report

30 September 2016



Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP  
Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy  
GPO Box 2264  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present the Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) Annual Report on the Committee's operations for the 2015-16 financial year.

## The program

During the 2015-16 financial year, the Committee recommended to the Technical Regulator for approval, a program of nine projects to underground a total of 5.2 kilometres of power lines.

SA Power Networks' contribution towards funding those projects, which will be built during the 2016-17 financial year is \$6,708,000, which meets the funding prescribed by the *Electricity Act 1996 (the Act)*. The participating Councils' collective contribution is \$3,354,000.

Of the projects approved, two are within the metropolitan area—Prospect Road (City of Prospect) and Bartels Road (Adelaide City Council)—taking up 25 percent of program's funds. The Prospect Road project leaves only a small stage remaining to complete the full length of undergrounding along Prospect Road, a project of co-operation between the City of Pt Adelaide Enfield and the City of Prospect.

The remainder of the program comprises projects in regional SA; at Pt Broughton, Strathalbyn, Meadows, Peterborough, Murray Bridge, Kadina and Naracoorte.

Four of the program's projects are on roads under the jurisdiction of the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), one of which is in the metropolitan area. DPTI will fund the public lighting on this project, but has authorised the installation of SA Power Networks' lighting on the three projects that are being built in the townships of Strathalbyn, Peterborough and Meadows. DPTI directs funding towards lighting on metropolitan area projects where it is seen as providing greater benefit to road safety.

A number of matters, concerning civil construction, have affected progress of project construction during the year. There have been delays brought about in relation to the treatment of contaminated soil where it has not previously been an issue. This has added to the costs during the construction phase. In addition, some tenders for civil work have exceeded the estimated costs which were based on data collected over several years. The processes underlying these matters are being reviewed with the aim of achieving more predictable and better outcomes.



The overall trend in increased project costs over time has continued to outstrip the annual CPI adjustment applied to PLEC funding. This is reflected in a widening gap between the amount of undergrounding carried out now, as compared to previous years.

### Highlights

Since its beginning, the PLEC program has delivered \$188.6 million worth of projects; \$121.8 million contributed by SA Power Networks, \$58.8 million contributed by Councils, and \$7.9 million by DPTI.

There has been significant progress made in respect of the installation of LED street lighting over the past year. SA Power Networks, which has undertaken its own lighting trials, now offers Councils the option of installing LED lamps for replacement street lights on PLEC projects. DPTI also recommends that where SA Power Networks' is granted permission to install its own lighting assets on DPTI roads, an LED option is offered to Councils by SA Power Networks.

Notably, Di Harvey and Margaret Lee, marked twenty years' service to PLEC this year. Their contribution to the Committee was celebrated with a morning tea where they were each presented with a small memento by the Essential Services Commission CEO, Mr Adam Wilson, in recognition of their long service. This year also marked ten years' service by Mike Magin and myself.

As is usual, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank SA Power Networks for its continued support of the program, and Telstra and DPTI for their respective contributions to the various projects.

I extend my thanks to the Committee members for their contributions in formulating the PLEC six-monthly programs, and I acknowledge the support of the Essential Services Commission that provides the services of our Executive Officer, Stuart McPherson and Minute Secretary, Anita Allen.

Over my ten years of service to the Committee, a consistent message I have received from the community is that the PLEC program is valued and appreciated. The benefits derived from the program, though difficult to value economically, provide for better and visually appealing amenities that benefit the local and wider communities.

I commend this annual report to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosemary Crowley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rosemary" and the last name "Crowley" clearly distinguishable.

Hon Rosemary Crowley AO  
Chairperson PLEC

## The year at a glance:

### Funding recommended during 2015-2016 by PLEC



\$6.708M

Amount prescribed by legislation for **PLEC funding** during 2016-2017



\$6.708M

Portion of 2016-2017 PLEC program funded by **SA Power Networks**



\$3.354M

Portion of 2016-2017 PLEC program funded by **Councils**

\$10.06M

Total amount of funding committed for 2016-2017 PLEC program

75 percent

Proportion of projects in regional SA during 2016-2017

25 percent

Proportion of projects in the metropolitan area during 2016-2017

5.20

Kilometres of power lines to be undergrounded during 2016-2017

## Projects approved during 2015-2016

During 2015-2016 the Committee recommended nine projects for funding approval that will result in undergrounding 5.2 kilometres of power lines. The project funding was approved by the Technical Regulator. Construction of these projects will be undertaken in 2016-2017.

Project Location	Council	\$PLEC	\$Council
Prospect, Prospect Road Stage 4B	City of Prospect	\$816,683	\$408,342
Pt Broughton, West Terrace	DC Barunga West	\$347,023	\$173,512
Peterborough, Petersburg Road	DC Peterborough	\$625,855	\$312,928
Strathalbyn, Sandergrove Road St 1	Alexandrina Council	\$1,336,353	\$668,177
Murray Bridge, South Terrace	Rural City of Murray Bridge	\$309,781	\$154,891
Kadina, Francis Terrace	DC Copper Coast	\$990,229	\$495,115
Meadows, Mawson Road St 3A	DC Mt Barker	\$675,198	\$337,599
Adelaide, Bartels Road	Adelaide City Council	\$852,179	\$426,090
Naracoorte, Robinson Road St 2	Naracoorte Lucindale Council	\$754,699	\$377,350

Financial year total **\$6,708,000** **\$3,354,000**

### Street lighting on roads under the jurisdiction of DPTI

Street lighting will be undertaken by DPTI on **Prospect Road Stage 4**. In addition, DPTI has granted permission for SA Power Networks' lighting infrastructure to be installed on the projects in **Peterborough, Meadows** and **Strathalbyn**, which are on country arterial roads.

DPTI contributed \$806,000 to public lighting for PLEC projects on its roads during 2015-16.

## Project construction during 2015-2016

The following provides a brief summary of the construction progress of approved projects during 2016.



**Goodwood Road (Stages 1 & 2), Goodwood –** Undergrounding is progressing slowly but steadily. However, the project is not complete. Work has been carried out at night so as not to obstruct daytime and peak-hour traffic flows, which limits the 'time on the ground' because of the continual setup and breakdown processes. Progress was slowed further due to the removal and off-site treatment of contaminated soil, which was not factored into the schedule. The management of contaminated soils is now being examined by SA Power Networks to determine an optimum method of treatment in such projects.

**Phillips Street/West Thebarton Road, Thebarton –** The civil work on this project has progressed slowly, due mainly to the narrow road reserve and the amount of service infrastructure that exists in the ground. A further delay resulted from safety performance issues that led SA Power Networks to cease work, review the construction contract and appoint a new construction contractor to the site.

**Prospect Road (Stage 3B), Prospect –** This stage of the project was run in conjunction with Stage 3A and work is now complete on the whole of the third stage of the project in the City of Prospect Council area.

**Prospect Road (Stage 4A), Prospect–** Work is still underway on this project which will be run concurrently with Stage 4B, approved for construction during the year. It is anticipated that the fourth stage will be completed by the end of 2016.

**Edinburgh Street Stage 2, Pt Lincoln –** This project is complete. It leaves only a small section of undergrounding to complete Pt Lincoln's long-term CBD project.

**Lower North East Road (stages 1 & 2), Campbelltown –** Work on Lower North East Road has been delayed severely. The primary issue is the high price of tenders received for the work. SA Power Networks is seeking alternative tenders and Council has also expressed an interest in carrying out the work. A major influencing factor is the time at which works can be carried out. Progress of this project is dependent on the outcomes of the tendering process.



## Before and after

Edinburgh Street, Port Lincoln



Looking in a westerly direction along *Edinburgh Street, Pt Lincoln* before and after undergrounding.



Streetscaping of Edinburgh Street continues with the theme chosen by Council throughout the commercial area of Pt Lincoln with clay pavers, replacement kerbing and guttering with tactile ramps and semi-mature Ornamental Pear trees. New rubbish bins and seating have also been installed at various locations.





## Prospect Road Stage 3, Prospect

Looking north along Prospect Road after undergrounding showing new paving and kerbing

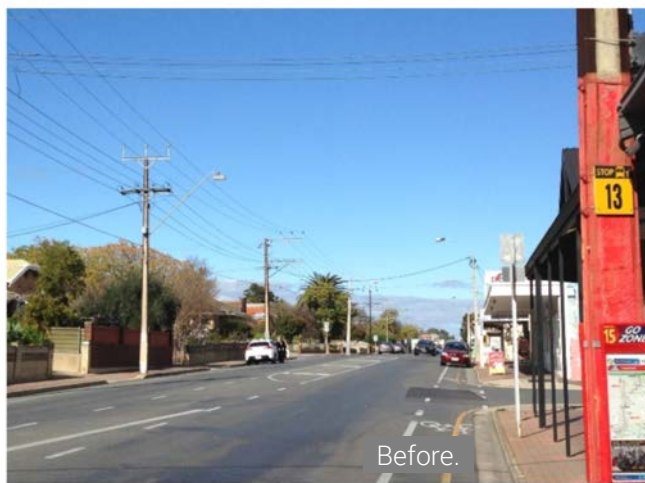


## Before and after

The City of Prospect is carrying out streetscaping along the third stage of *Prospect Road, Prospect*.

New footpath paving accompanies new kerbing with intersections at some side streets highlighted with paved sections and low level plantings.

New public lighting has been installed by DPTI in conjunction with the project.



Looking south along Prospect Road after undergrounding.

# Before and after

Robertson Street Stage 1, Naracoorte



Naracoorte Lucindale Council is undertaking a major upgrade of its commercial hub in *Robertson Street, Naracoorte*. The project involves a major stormwater upgrade and amenity upgrade, carried out after undergrounding work.

As can be seen in the accompanying 'before and after' pictures the road is being fully reconstructed along with new paved areas and kerbing.



The eastern end of Robertson Street is mainly a commercial precinct as can be seen in the adjacent pictures comparing the area before and after the removal of power lines. Trees in planter boxes are to be placed in various locations along the footpath in this section to avoid stormwater pipes and electricity cables in the footpath area.



# The Power Line Environment Committee

The Power Line Environment Committee was established by the South Australian Government in 1990. It provides advice to the Minister responsible for the Act in relation to the preparation of programs for power line undergrounding work pursuant to section 58A of the Act.

The Committee consists of eight members from relevant organisations and areas of community interest who are appointed for a period of up to three years. PLEC projects are funded by a contribution of two dollars from SA Power Networks for each dollar contributed by Councils. The Essential Services Commission of South Australia funds the operation of PLEC and provides the services of an Executive Officer.



*Rosemary Crowley*  
(Chairperson)  
Representing Tourism interests



*Kevin Hamilton*  
(Deputy Chairperson)  
Community Representative



*Lachlan Clyne*  
Local Government Association Representative



*Michael Magin*  
SA Power Networks Representative



*Margaret Lee*  
Representing Conservation Interests



*Alex Duerden*  
Department for Planning,  
Transport and Infrastructure  
Representative



*Tim Wilson*  
Department for Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources  
Representative



*Diana Harvey*  
Community Representative



Hindley Street, Adelaide