

Power Line Environment Committee



Annual report 2016-2017

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2016-17 at a glance

Funding recommended by PLEC during 2016-17 for the 2017-18 undergrounding program:



\$6.85 million prescribed by legislation for PLEC funding to be funded by SA Power Networks



\$3.43 million funded by Councils



\$10.28 million of funding committed for the 2017-18 PLEC program

4.75 kilometres of power lines to be undergrounded during 2017-18

53 percent of funds for the 2017-18 program will be directed to projects in the metropolitan area and **47 percent** of funds directed to projects in regional SA

Chairman's report

30 September 2017



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

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present my first Annual Report of the Power Line Environment Committee's (PLEC) operations for the 2016-17 financial year.

The Committee recommended to the Technical Regulator for approval, a program of seven projects to underground 4.8 kilometres of power lines.

SA Power Networks' contribution towards funding those projects, which will be built during the 2017-18 financial year is \$6.85 million, which meets the funding prescribed by the Electricity Act 1996 (**Act**). The participating Councils' collective contribution is \$3.43 million.

Three of the approved projects are within the metropolitan area—the final stage of Prospect Road, Prospect (City of Prospect) and the final two stages of Hampstead Road, Manningham (a partnership of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and Prospect Councils). These projects take up 52.5 percent of the funding for the 2017-18 program, which reflects the complex and costly nature of working on busy arterial roads.

The remaining 47.5 percent of the funding for the 2017-18 program is allocated to projects in regional SA—Sandergrove Road, Strathalbyn Stage 2, Mawson Road, Meadows Stage 3B, Porter/Washington Streets, Port Lincoln Stage 1 and Main Street, Minlaton Stage 2.

All of the above projects involve roads under the jurisdiction of the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (**DPTI**). DPTI will contribute to the installation of public lighting on the three metropolitan area projects where it has a greater safety focus. SA Power Networks is authorised by DPTI to install its own public lighting, which is compliant with the relevant standard, on the projects being built in the four regional townships.

Seven projects were completed during 2016-17, however, some remain unfinished. Delays are sometimes planned at Council's request, such as avoiding the timing of the Clipsal 500 car race, where the Bartels Road project involves work alongside the race track.

Highlights

The PLEC program has delivered \$198.8 million worth of projects since it began, with \$128.6 million contributed by SA Power Networks, \$62.3 million contributed by Councils, and \$7.9 million by DPTI.

The 2017-18 undergrounding program will see the completion of the full length of Prospect Road (5.6 kilometres) and Hampstead Road (4.1 kilometres). Undergrounding of these two

arterial roads began in 1993 and 1999 respectively, and has continued progressively as the City of Prospect and the City of Port Adelaide Enfield have been able to contribute funds to their respective sections. Completion of the last stage of Hampstead Road was dependent on both Councils contributing their share of the funding. The City of Prospect, having completed its commitment to Prospect Road, is now able to contribute to its share of Hampstead Road.

There has been a good response to calls for undergrounding proposals during the year with many registrations of interest received—the majority coming from regional Councils. Whilst we continue to work on a number of high profile (and very expensive) metropolitan projects, we also encourage rural councils to take part in the program. We understand that by helping communities to improve the appearance of their towns they can attract tourists from around Australia to their part of the state.

The high cost of projects is a potential deterrent for communities to take part in the scheme. Civil works on PLEC projects is a specialised area of the industry and costs have risen dramatically over the last few years, as there are a limited number of contractors with the ability to tender for PLEC projects. We are working closely with SA Power Networks and Councils to limit these increases.

The Committee

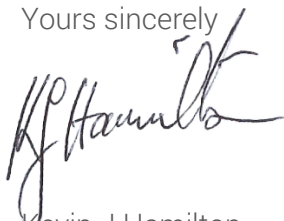
Of note, there were four changes to the Committee following the appointment process undertaken during the year by the Technical Regulator. Hon Rosemary Crowley and Ms Diana Harvey were not renominated by their representative organisations and retired from the Committee after 12 and 21 years' service respectively. I wish to acknowledge and thank them for their long service, dedication and sound contribution to PLEC. I also extend my thanks to Tim Wilson and Lachlan Clyne who did not seek reappointment due to work commitments.

I am pleased to welcome our new members – Ms Pam Andritsakis (Local Government Association representative), Ms Joanne Davidson (South Australian Tourism Commission representative), Ms Angela Crimes (Department for the Environment, Water and Natural Resources representative) and Mr Kim Steinle (Community representative). I trust that they will find working with the Committee an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

I acknowledge the contributions of SA Power Networks, the proponent Councils, DPTI and Telstra for their continued efforts in achieving quality project outcomes. I also wish to thank the Essential Services Commission for the Secretariat support of our Executive Officer, Minute Secretaries and meeting rooms.

In closing, I would like to thank all PLEC members for their contributions during the year. We can all look forward to the benefits in future years as Councils' amenity improvements establish and mature into great community areas enjoyed by all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K J Hamilton', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin J Hamilton
Chairman PLEC

Projects recommended and approved during 2016-17

The Committee recommended seven projects for funding approval during 2016-17. The projects, tabled below, will result in undergrounding 4.8 kilometres of power lines.

The Technical Regulator approves the project funding in advance, that is, projects approved during 2016-17 are constructed during 2017-18. In accordance with the Act, the prescribed funding, to be contributed by SA Power Networks to the undergrounding program, is \$6.85 million. This amount represents two-thirds of the program funding. Council proponents are required to contribute the remaining one-third of the funds (\$3.43 million).

Table – 2017-18 PLEC projects approved during 2016-17

Project Location	Council	\$PLEC	\$Council
Manningham, Hampstead Rd, Stage 5A	Pt Adelaide Enfield/Prospect	\$1,245,438	\$622,719
Meadows, Mawson Road, Stage 3B	Mt Barker	\$523,045	\$261,523
Minlaton, Main Street, Stage 2	Yorke Peninsula	\$985,500	\$492,750
Strathalbyn, Sandergrove Road, Stage 2	Alexandrina	\$754,699	\$377,350
Manningham, Hampstead Road, Stage 5B	Pt Adelaide Enfield/Prospect	\$1,245,438	\$622,719
Prospect, Prospect Road, Stage 5	City of Prospect	\$1,105,235	\$552,617
Pt Lincoln, Porter/Washington Streets, Stage 1	City of Pt Lincoln	\$990,645	\$495,322
Financial year total		\$6,850,000	\$3,425,000

The Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) will install street lighting on the Hampstead Road and Prospect Road Stage 5 projects. In addition, DPTI has granted permission for SA Power Networks' lighting infrastructure to be installed on the projects on DPTI's country arterial roads in Minlaton, Meadows, Port Lincoln and Strathalbyn. DPTI undertook the installation of public lighting for PLEC projects on its roads during 2016-17 to the value of \$808,600.

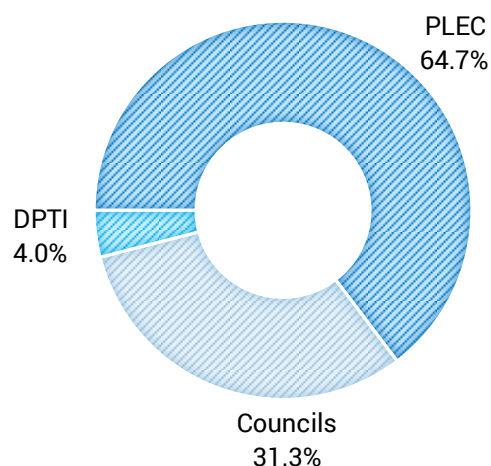
Funding over the long term

The PLEC program has delivered \$198.8 million worth of projects since it began in 1990. Over that time:

- SA Power Networks has contributed \$128.6 million.
- Councils have collectively contributed \$62.3 million.
- DPTI has contributed \$7.9 million*
- 62 percent has been spent in the Metropolitan area
- 38 percent has been spent in regional SA

**DPTI's funding is for project work where it is required to contribute to projects in accordance with funding arrangements set out in the PLEC Charter. It does not include DPTI's commitment to street lighting on projects undertaken on Council projects on roads under DPTI's jurisdiction.*

Proportion of project expenditure 1990-2017



Project construction during 2016-17

The following provides a brief summary of projects under construction during 2016-17.

Completed

The following projects were completed – **Prospect Road Stage 4B, Prospect; West Terrace, Port Broughton and Main Street, Peterborough.**

Goodwood Road, Goodwood, and Augusta Street, Glenelg, which were both incomplete from the previous program, were also finished.

In progress

Kadina, Francis Terrace – Council is well underway with the trenching on this project in conjunction with a major road and amenity rebuild. SA Power Networks will undertake its work when Council has completed the trenching associated with the undergrounding.

Meadows, Mawson Road Stage 3A – This project was delayed awaiting the provision of a road and intersection design by Council and DPTI. It is being carried out simultaneously with Stage 3B and is due for completion by the end of 2017.

Strathalbyn, Sandergrove Road Stage 1 – This project was delayed whilst Council sought easement sites. Similar to the Meadows project, it is being carried out simultaneously with Stage 2 and is due for completion by the end of 2017.

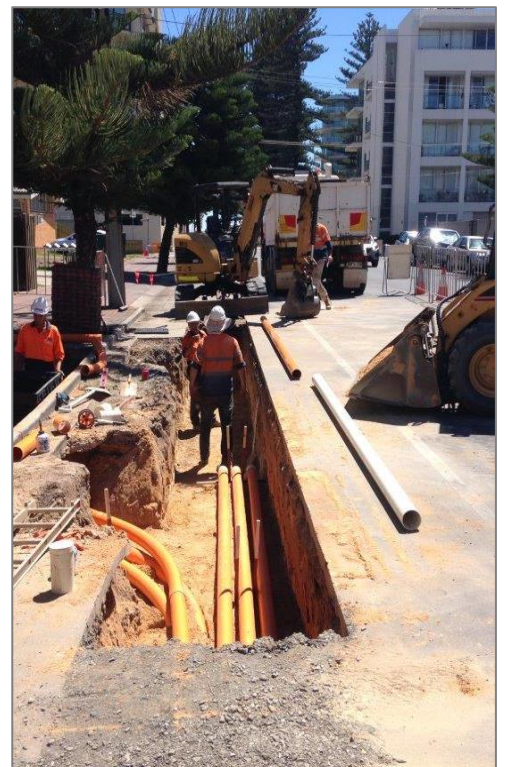
Adelaide, Bartels Road – Work on Bartels Road was originally deferred until after the Clipsal 500 car race at the request of Council. However, it could not be started until easements for equipment were granted over Crown land. Significant care and attention is to be given to the established trees along the route and the excavation methodology must avoid damage to the trees' root systems. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of 2017.

Naracoorte, Robinson Road, Stage 2 – This project has not started as Council has not finalised the required easements.

Murray Bridge, South Terrace – This project was deferred at Council request and is now scheduled for construction.

Phillips Street/West Thebarton Road, Thebarton – This project is approximately 80 percent complete. It is progressing satisfactorily following SA Power Networks' appointment of a replacement civil contractor to the project during the year due to the unsatisfactory performance of the original contractor.

Lower North East Road, Campbelltown – Work on this project was again delayed. Council has agreed to undertake the civil works because of the unavailability of suitable contractors.



Before and after

Goodwood Road, Goodwood



Before



The pictures (*left*) and (*below*) showing the clean 'Art Deco' façade of the Capri Cinema and adjacent buildings after the removal of power lines on Goodwood Road, Goodwood.

After



Before



The pictures (*left*) and (*below*), looking south from the tram crossing, show the tidy appearance of Goodwood Road now that the power lines have been placed underground.

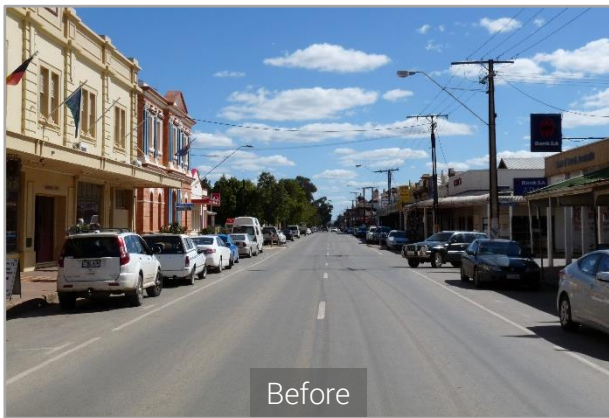
Council has completed a significant makeover of this commercial area by repaving footpaths, replacing the gutters and kerbing, installing street furniture, street art, planter pots, and adding more street trees. Various building façades have also been updated.

After

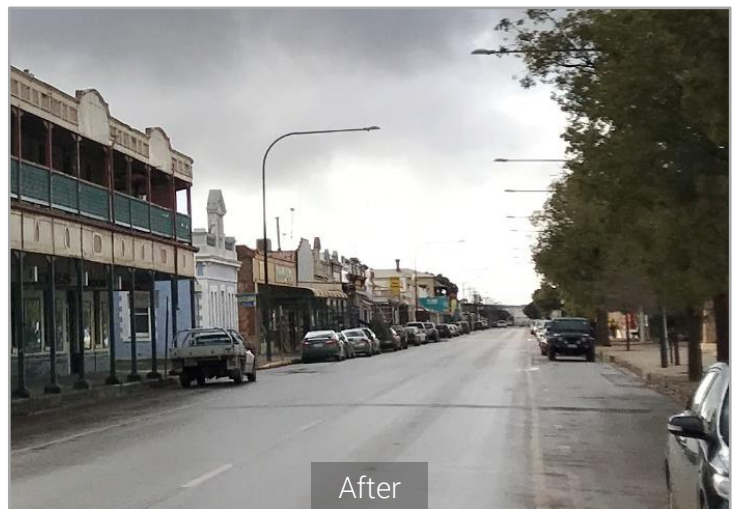
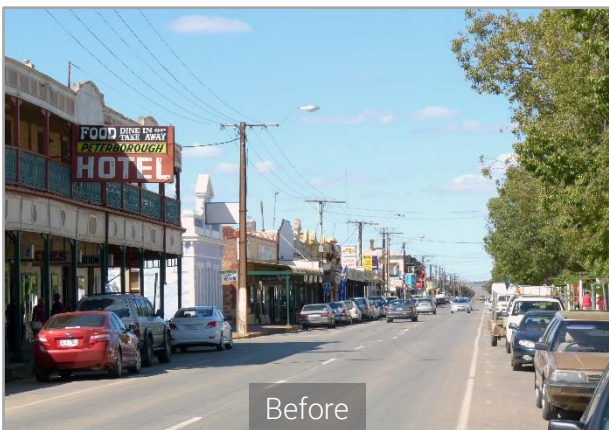


Before and after

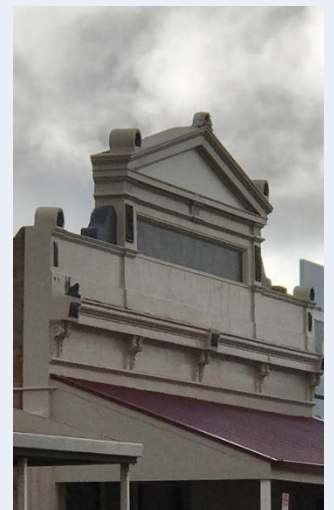
Main Street, Peterborough



The pictures above and below show the improved appearance of Peterborough's main street following the removal of powerlines and the installation of new LED public lighting. The majority of the old poles are a remnant of the time when Peterborough was not connected to the State's main electricity grid and the network was privately owned. This PLEC project supports the amenity improvements that Peterborough Council has already carried out, which have helped to raise the town's profile and tourism potential.



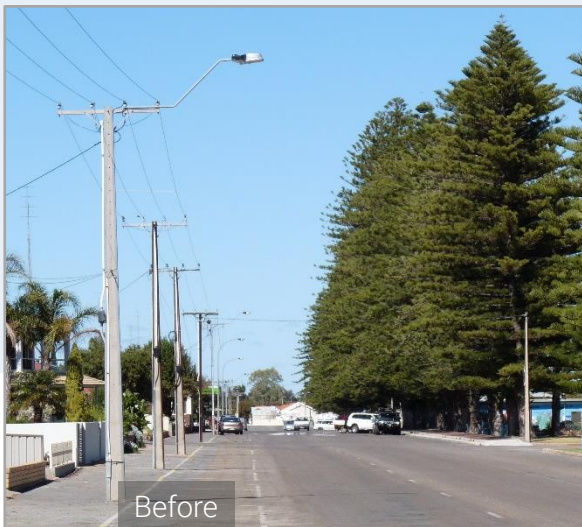
The appearance of the main street is being further improved by the upgrade of building façades and replacing the old verandas fronting the street, as is evident in the adjacent pictures. Council was able to secure a grant to fund this additional work.



Before and after

West Terrace, Port Broughton

The pictures below and right show the impact of the removal of the power lines along West Terrace, the foreshore esplanade traversing the public area at Port Broughton. The 'after' picture was taken following the completion of the under-grounding work prior to the District Council Barunga West starting its pavement upgrade.



In 2001, Council undertook the undergrounding of Bay Road, Port Broughton (*below*), which leads to the township's foreshore amenity. The latest undergrounding project (*to the left*), connects with this earlier stage of works. Council has upgraded the foreshore amenity over time and intends to update the parking and footpath areas adjacent to the foreshore to match the existing work.





The Power Line Environment Committee

The Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) 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.

Committee appointments – Appointments to PLEC expired in March 2017 and the Technical Regulator sought nominations from the representative organisations of the Committee as required under the PLEC Charter.

Following that process, four new members were appointed – **Ms Pam Andritsakis** (representing the Local Government Association), **Mr Kim Steinle** (Community representative), **Ms Joanne Davidson** (South Australia Tourism Commission representative) and **Ms Angela Crimes** (Department for the Environment, Water and Natural Resources representative).

Mr Kevin Hamilton (Community representative and Chairperson) **Ms Margaret Lee** (Conservation Interests representative), **Mr Alex Duerden** (DPTI representative), and **Mr Michael Magin** (SA Power Networks representative) were reappointed for a further term.



Kevin Hamilton
(Chairperson)
Community Representative



Joanne Davidson
South Australia Tourism
Commission Representative



Alex Duerden
Department for Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure
Representative



Michael Magin
SA Power Networks
Representative



Pam Andritsakis
Local Government
Association Representative



Kim Steinle
(Deputy Chairperson)
Community Representative



Margaret Lee
Conservation Interests
Representative



Angela Crimes
Department for the
Environment, Water and Natural
Resources Representative



Underground cable laying King William Street, Adelaide circa 1900

Source SA Power Networks

