

Power Line Environment Committee



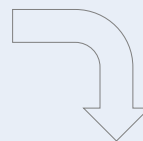
Annual Report 2018–2019

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Overview

Funding recommended for approval by PLEC during 2018-19 for the **2019-20** undergrounding program comprises:

\$7.07 million funded by **SA Power Networks** (prescribed amount)

\$3.54 million funded by **Councils**

\$10.61 million in total committed for the 2019-20 PLEC program

4.0 kilometres of power lines to be undergrounded during 2019-20



51 percent of funds for the 2018-19 program will be directed to projects in the metropolitan area and 49 percent directed to projects in regional SA



Chairman's report

9 September 2019

Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP
Minister for Energy and Mining
Level 17, 25 Grenfell Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000



Dear Minister

Attached is the Annual Report of the Power Line Environment Committee's (PLEC) operations for the 2018-19 financial year as required under the Charter of PLEC.

As you may be aware, in 2011, the Energy Minister delegated the powers and functions under section 58A of the Electricity Act 1996 (the Act) to the Technical Regulator, who is responsible for exercising those related functions and powers under the Act associated with the undergrounding of power lines.

Accordingly, the PLEC recommended to the Technical Regulator for approval, a program of six projects to underground 4.0 kilometres of power lines. Those projects will be built during the 2019-20 financial year as determined under the forward-looking program schedule set out in the PLEC Charter.

SA Power Networks' contribution towards funding is \$7.07 million, which meets the funding prescribed by the Electricity Act 1996 (Act). The participating Councils' collective contribution is \$3.54 million. Six undergrounding projects were approved of which 51 percent of funds will be directed to two projects in the metropolitan area (Magill Road, **Magill**; Old Port Wakefield Road, **Virginia**) and 49 percent directed to four projects in regional SA (Eyre Highway, **Wudinna**; Albert Street, **Gumeracha**; Sea Parade, Port **Macdonnell**; Old Princes Highway, **Littlehampton**).

The Magill project is the second stage of a project that will ultimately deliver two Councils, Campbelltown and Burnside, an urban plan for the Magill Village that will benefit the local and wider community who use and visit that location. The Virginia project aims to enhance the town centre as a regional hub as well as improving the pedestrian experience and vibrancy in the town centre.

The regional projects for Wudinna, Port Macdonnell, Gumeracha and Littlehampton will all provide an improved experience for the many visitors to these towns. Most importantly, the local communities who have lobbied for these projects, will benefit from the aesthetic and considerable infrastructure improvements.

During the year there were two key major project milestones achieved that deserve special mention. They were the completion of the entire length of Prospect Road comprising 12 stages

over a period of 27 years, and the completion of the entire length Hampstead Road in 6 stages over 20 years. These projects required vision and investment by both the City of Prospect and the City of Port Adelaide/Enfield, and with the added streetscaping enhancements, have vastly improved the vibe of these locations with the Prospect 'Village Heart' section winning both State and National awards.

In addition to many site inspections by the Executive Officer, Committee members also undertook various field trips to inspect past, present and future PLEC projects.

These site visits are particularly valuable from a Quality Assurance perspective, ensuring that the advice given and received is both current and accurate.

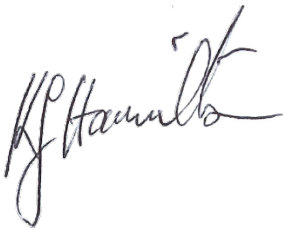
Furthermore, these visits offer the opportunity to better inform the broader community, as is evidenced by the recent mention of PLEC in the local South-East regional media.

There were two changes in PLEC management and membership to the Committee this year. Michael Magin, from SA Power Networks was appointed to the position of Executive Officer following the retirement of the previous Executive Officer, Stuart McPherson. Ms Angela Crimes, the representative for the Department for Environment and Water, resigned from her position with her replacement awaiting formal appointment.

Members of the Committee have contributed to robust discussions and assessment of project submissions, which has ensured the provision of excellent outcomes for local Council. I extend my personal thanks to all PLEC members for their diligence and contributions during the year.

PLEC is grateful for the continued support of SA Power Networks, DPTI, Telstra (and other communications companies) and of course, the proponent Councils 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 and meeting rooms.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Hamilton', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Hamilton
Chairman
Power Line Environment Committee

2018-19: PLEC Projects recommended and approved

The Committee recommended six projects for funding approval during 2018-19. The projects, tabled below, will result in undergrounding 4.0 kilometres of power lines.

The Technical Regulator approved projects during 2018-19 that are constructed during 2019-20. In accordance with the Electricity Act 1996, the Prescribed funding, to be contributed by SA Power Networks (two-thirds of the program funding) is \$7.07 million. Proponents are required to contribute the remaining one-third.

Table – PLEC projects approved during 2017-18






Project Location	Council	\$PLEC	\$Council
Magill, Magill Road Stage 1B	Campbelltown/Burnside	\$1,843,317	\$921,659
Old Princes Highway, Littlehampton	Mount Barker	\$1,514,181	\$757,090
Albert Street, Gumeracha Stage 1	Adelaide Hills	\$1,048,824	\$524,412
Eyre Highway, Wudinna	Wudinna	\$455,158	\$227,579
Sea Parade, Port MacDonnell Stage 1	Grant	\$456,055	\$228,028
Old Port Wakefield Road, Virginia	City of Playford	\$1,754,808	\$877,404
	Financial year total	\$7,072,343	\$3,536,172

The Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) will install street lighting on the Magill project. DPTI has also granted permission for SA Power Networks' lighting infrastructure to be installed on the Gumeracha, Wudinna and Virginia projects, as part of its country arterial roads network. DPTI funded the installation of public lighting for PLEC projects on its roads during 2018-19 to the value of \$1,393,170.

Funding over the long term

The PLEC program has delivered \$219.9 million worth of projects since it began.

Over that time:

-  SA Power Networks has contributed \$142.7 million
-  Councils have collectively contributed \$69.3 million
-  DPTI has contributed \$7.9 million
-  61.9 percent has been spent in the Metropolitan area
-  38.1 percent has been spent in regional SA.

2018-19: Project construction

The following provides a summary of projects under construction during 2018-19.

Completed

The following projects were completed during the year:

- 🔄 Naracoorte, Robertson Street, Stage 2
- 🔄 Manningham, Hampstead Road Stage 5A and 5B
- 🔄 Meadows, Mawson Road, Stage 3A and 3B
- 🔄 Prospect, Prospect Rd Stage 5
- 🔄 Pt Lincoln, Porter St/Washington Stage 1 and 2

In progress

North Adelaide, Jeffcott Street – The start of this project was delayed due to the establishment of a safe line of excavation to avoid damage to tree roots however the project is progressing well for a completion date of November 2019.

Streaky Bay, Wells Street stage 3 – Council have recently begun the civil component of this project with total project completion expected by December 2019.

Largs Bay, Jetty Road – The civil component of this work is about 50% complete with expected project completion by October 2019. This project will be using a new, larger capacity low voltage cable system expected to be used as a new standard across future PLEC projects.

Lower NE Rd, Stage 1 and 2 – City of Campbelltown is yet to properly begin the civil works on both stages of this project resulting in a significant delay. Actions are underway to assist Council through project construction.

Magill, Magill Road Stages 1A and 2A – Both stages of this project are being undertaken simultaneously to minimise traffic interruptions at this location, with most work being carried out during the evening. The project is about 60% complete and scheduled to finish in December 2019.



Magill Road (under construction)

Completed project pictures



Undergrounding of Mawson Road, **Meadows Stage 3** (above) extends beyond the previous two stages that were completed in 1999. The removal of the overhead mains infrastructure in this third stage has enabled the development of the nearby recreation park, increased safety for both drivers and pedestrians, the reduction of vegetation clearance and the ability to plant large tree species. The proposed streetscaping will further enhance the aesthetics of this township.



Robertson Street, **Naracoorte Stage 2** (above) – before and after undergrounding. These pictures were taken from opposite directions. Council has been progressively upgrading its storm water drainage system and road surfaces along with the first and second stages of the PLEC project to undergrounding the powerlines. The next part of this project is the streetscaping that includes new brick paved footpaths, planting of trees, street furniture and artistic sculptures to improve the aesthetic value of the area whilst making a safer environment.

Completed project pictures



Hampstead Road, **Manningham** – shows the improvement in aesthetic appeal of this major thoroughfare following the removal of the power lines and initial streetscaping improvements



Completed project pictures



Prospect Road, **Prospect** –with the undergrounding of the powerlines complete, the streetscaping works can commence as demonstrated by these photos of streetscaping works currently under construction



Some of the PLEC committee with Council representatives on a site visit at Mt Gambier to discuss the merits of proposed PLEC projects submitted by Council.



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 administration support of our Executive Officer and provides meeting rooms.

Committee appointments – The Department for Environment and Water representative, Ms Angela Crimes, resigned from her position together with her committee obligations and a suitable replacement is in the process of being appointed.

Members:

Kevin Hamilton



Chairperson
Community Representative

Joanne Davidson



South Australia Tourism
Commission Representative

Amit Dua



Department for Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure
Representative

Pam Andritsakis



Local Government Association
Representative



Michael Magin



SA Power Networks
Representative and
Executive Officer

Margaret Lee



Conservation Interests
Representative

Kim Steinle



(Deputy Chairperson)
Community Representative

Angela Crimes



Department for Environment
and Water Representative

