

UNDERGROUND POWER

South Perth and Hurlingham project area



INFORMATION FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

Underground power is coming to the South Perth and Hurlingham areas through the Retrospective Undergrounding Project (RUP).

This project will replace overhead power lines with underground power infrastructure to move closer towards the City's vision for underground power in all of its suburbs.

The RUP is a partnership between the City and Western Power and is expected to commence in September 2022.

As this project is taking place in your suburb, the City has a number of ways property owners can find out more, including the City's website southperth.wa.gov.au/SUPP, where you can also view Frequently Asked Questions.

There will also be an information session.

INFORMATION SESSION

Come and speak directly to City and Western Power representatives to learn more about this project and how it may affect you:

Date: Wednesday 25 May
Time: Drop in any time between 3-6pm
Location: John McGrath Hall
97 Hensman Street,
South Perth

City of
South Perth



BENEFITS OF UNDERGROUND POWER

IMPROVED STREET APPEARANCE

The removal of poles and wires makes areas more desirable to live in. It also reduces the need for tree pruning and the unsightly foliage deformation that occurs to keep trees clear of overhead wires.

IMPROVED PROPERTY VALUES

The removal of poles and power lines improves local streetscapes, which has led to increased property values.

INCREASE IN TREE CANOPY COVER

Tree canopy will increase when trees don't require harsh pruning from power lines. The absence of poles means more trees can be planted, resulting in greener streets, reduced urban temperatures and lower energy costs.

IMPROVED SECURITY AND RELIABILITY OF POWER SUPPLY

Moving to an underground electrical distribution system will improve the reliability and quality of power supplies. This includes reduced faults and outages caused by storms, trees, wildlife, vandalism and vehicle collisions with poles.

A SAFER PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT

The removal of poles and power lines prevents personal safety hazards caused by fallen power lines, pruning near power lines and car accidents involving power poles.

IMPROVED STREET LIGHTING

Street lighting will be upgraded to energy efficient LED luminaries as part of the project. Upgraded street lighting can help to prevent crime and improve road safety.

Why am I getting underground power?

The State Underground Power Program (SUPP) is a State Government initiative, which is funded through the Office of Energy and implemented by Western Power and participating local governments.

The SUPP was established in 1996 to improve the reliability of electricity supply after a severe storm in 1994 caused significant disruptions in Perth and southern parts of Western Australia.

At the commencement of the SUPP, Council resolved to progress a 'whole of city' approach to underground power.

In April 2016, successful projects were announced. Three City SUPP projects (the maximum allowed for a local government) were approved due to the evaluation process, including:

- Manning
- Collier
- South Perth.

Hurlingham was not eligible for consideration as a SUPP project as the area contained less than 500 properties (the minimum amount for a SUPP). Instead, the City nominated this area as a RUP, which has lower qualification requirements, to ensure this community was included.

In 2020 Western Power finalised estimates for the South Perth SUPP and the Hurlingham RUP, and determined that by amalgamating these two project areas and delivering the entire project as a RUP, Western Power could apply their net benefit contribution to the whole area, which involves a different assessment process to a typical SUPP.

Combined South Perth / Hurlingham Project Area

By applying Western Power's net benefit to a combined South Perth and Hurlingham project area, the project can be delivered at a discounted price. Had the South Perth SUPP proceeded in 2016, these residents would have contributed 80 per cent towards the cost of underground power.

However, under the combined project, the resident contribution will now be 64 per cent of the total project cost.

Will I be charged?

As property owners in the South Perth and Hurlingham area, you will be charged as part of the RUP. The average cost per property owner will be determined by Council as part of the 2022/23 budget process and will be communicated to you following the Council's budget endorsement.

Once the costs are finalised, the underground power service charges will be included as part of your Rates Notice sent in early August 2022. This will include payment plans and options.

How can I find out more?

For information about timing of the projects, site reinstatement or construction activities, email Western Power at undergroundpower@westernpower.com.au.

For information about payment and billing, please contact the City on 9474 0777 or email enquiries@southperth.wa.gov.au.

More information is also available on the City's website at southperth.wa.gov.au/SUPP