

Virginia Main Street Upgrade

Undergrounding of Power Lines – Frequently Asked Questions

As at 23 March 2020

1. Why are the overhead power lines being undergrounded?

The undergrounding of power lines is part of the Virginia Main Street upgrade and will make a huge improvement to the appearance of the street and pedestrian footpath access.

In 2019 Council lodged an application with the Minister's Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) to underground power lines along the Virginia Main Street (Old Port Wakefield Road between the Virginia Oval entrance and the Sheedy/Penfield Roads intersection). PLEC approved the application in June 2019.

2. What will the works involve?

The works comprise of the following key elements:

- Installation of power infrastructure into trenches approximately 60 cm wide within the road corridor, electrical testing and resealing of the trench
- Installation of service pits in the footpath
- Connection of individual properties to the new power network which will generally involve the installation of low voltage pillars (30 – 60 cm tall) on property boundaries and installation of consumer electrical cables on properties (electrically tested*)
- Removal of stobie poles, street lights, and overhead power lines
- Installation of new street lighting
- Kerbs and footpaths will be reinstated with a compacted gravel and hot mix treatment. This will be a temporary measure until Council undertakes its streetscape improvements as part of the Virginia Main Street Upgrade project.

** testing is done of the new cables; it does not include any testing for the electrical wiring within each private property*

3. How much is it costing to underground the power lines?

The cost to underground power lines is \$2.6M. SA Power Networks is funding two thirds of the cost and Council is contributing one third.

4. Who is undertaking the works?

This City of Playford is the project sponsor. SA Power Networks as the owner and operator of the power infrastructure will manage the undergrounding process. SAPN have engaged a civil contractor (Noone Nominees) to undertake construction works on their behalf. Council will work closely with SA Power Networks and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) as the owner of the road, during the process.

5. When will the undergrounding works occur?

The main civil works (trenching of the underground cable) is scheduled to commence mid-April although preparatory works that will not impact street-users will commence late March. The trenching works will take around 4 months to complete with additional works taking a further 2-4 months.

Please note that due to the Covid-19 virus it is possible that there will be some delays to the above schedule associated with obtaining materials manufactured interstate and overseas.

6. What are the hours of work?

Generally work will take place Monday to Friday between 7am - 5:30pm, although some night and weekend work will be required. The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) as the owner of the road may place restrictions on the work hours.

7. Which properties will be connected to the new network?

Refer to the map at the end of this document.

8. Will there be a cost to connect my property to the new underground network?

There is no cost to property owners unless they choose to upgrade or modify their existing service, for example upgrading from single- to -three-phase, or relocating meter boxes.

9. What works will need to occur on my property to change over to the new underground power network?

Low voltage pillars (between 30 – 60 cm in height) and low voltage consumer cable will be installed at most properties; small businesses will most likely require a small fuse enclosure. There is no charge to residents and businesses for this work unless they wish to alter their existing electrical service.

Impacts may include restricted driveway access and power outages to connect properties to the new underground network and undertake Telstra/ NBN changeovers. The civil contractor engaged by SAPN (Noone Nominees) will discuss any impacts directly with occupants and planned power interruptions will be notified by SAPN in writing, by posted orange card.

10. Will there be power outages?

For the safety of crews, there is likely to be two to three power outages of up to eight hours. SA Power Networks will attempt to minimise both the frequency and duration of outages and will notify the account holder in writing by posted orange card, with at least four working days' notice on each occasion.

Property owners who are being connected to the underground network will have their supply interrupted for a few hours as they are changed over to the underground system.

You may also register for free SMS updates about planned or unplanned power outages using the NMI number from your power bill at [bit.ly/SMSupdates](https://www.sapowernetworks.com.au) or via SA Power Networks' website: <https://www.sapowernetworks.com.au>

11. Will back up power be provided during outages?

The cost of these works does not include providing back-up generation although you can arrange your own. Please inform SA Power Networks of any temporary generation you have installed by calling 131 261 during business hours.

12. Will I be financially compensated for any potential loss of business as a result of the disruption?

There is no compensation for commercial losses that may occur during this project but impacts will be minimised as much as possible.

13. Will car parking, road traffic and pedestrian access be impacted?

Rolling sections of around 100 meters of on-street car parking, footpaths and road lanes will be temporarily closed with traffic management in place for safety. Those directly affected will be provided advance notice.

14. What will happen with noise and dust?

Dust and noise will be kept to a minimum.

15. Will existing street lighting be impacted?

The existing street lighting is attached to SA Power Networks' stobie poles which will be removed. New street lights will be installed that comply with Department of Transport, Planning and Infrastructure standards.

16. Will existing street trees be impacted?

It is likely that several trees will need to be removed to enable the undergrounding works to occur due to their proximity to underground services. However, in the longer term, Council will be replacing the trees with a more suitable species as part of the broader Virginia Main Street Upgrade project.

17. Will other services be impacted?

SA Power Networks will work with other service providers where required if their infrastructure is impacted by the power undergrounding project.

18. Will the bus stops be impacted?

Temporary relocation of the bus stops will likely be required during the works. Notices will be posted to explain the temporary alternatives.

19. Will I be notified about up-coming works?

Every effort will be made to keep the community and main street property/business owners informed of the works schedule and expected disruptions at the earliest opportunity.

Power outages are notified at least four working days in advance. **Register for free SMS updates about planned or unplanned power outages using the NMI number from your power bill at bit.ly/SMSUpdates or via SA Power Networks' website: www.sapowernetworks.com.au**

20. Where can I find more information?

Information about the undergrounding works and Virginia Main Street Upgrade project more broadly can be found on **Council's Engagement Hub:**

<https://playford.engagementhub.com.au/virginia-main-street-upgrade>

21. Who do I contact if I have further questions?

Ben Woodrow from the City of Playford will be the main point of contact at virginiainstreet@playford.sa.gov.au or by calling 8256 0333.



- Existing service to be transferred to new stobie pole (power connection is not being undergrounded)
- Properties being connected to underground network

Note that properties outside the scope of works may also experience power interruptions