

# PLEC

Power Line Environment Committee



Annual Report 2019-2020

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Power Line Environment Committee

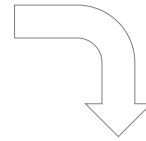
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Magill Road (Before)



Magill Road (After)



## Overview

**Funding recommended** for approval by PLEC during 2019-20 for the **2020-21** undergrounding program comprises:

**\$7.23** million funded by **SA Power Networks** (Prescribed amount)

**\$3.49** million funded by **Councils**

**\$0.12** million by **SA Power Networks** as a proponent

**\$10.84** million in total committed for the 2020-21 PLEC program

**3.86** kilometres of power lines to be undergrounded during 2020-21



67 percent of funds for the 2020-21 program will be directed to projects in the metropolitan area and 33 percent directed to projects in regional SA



## Chairman's report



24 September 2020

POWER LINE  
ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE

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 2019-20 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 eight projects to underground 3.86 kilometres of power lines. Those projects will be built during the 2020-21 financial year as determined under the forward-looking program schedule set out in the PLEC Charter.

SA Power Networks' contribution towards funding is \$7.23 million, which meets the funding prescribed by the Act. The participating Councils' collective contribution is \$3.49 million with a further \$0.12 million by SA Power Networks as a proponent. Eight undergrounding projects were approved with 67 percent of funds being directed to five projects in the metropolitan area (Golden Grove, **Modbury**; Reservoir Road, **Modbury**; Woodville Road, **Woodville**; Alawoona Road, **Marion**; and Military Road, **Henley Beach**) and 33 percent directed to three projects in regional SA (Bay Street, **Port Broughton**; Albert Street, Stage 2 **Gumeracha**; and Peter Seppelt Road, **Seppeltsfield**).

The Modbury projects and the project at Woodville complete the undergrounding of powerlines in those sections of roadway where previous undergrounding projects have occurred. Alawoona Avenue, Marion is the gateway to the Tonsley Innovation District and undergrounding the powerlines will improve the visual appeal, safety, and usability of this gateway to the district. The significant streetscaping of the Henley Beach project together with the undergrounding of powerlines is expected to improve the experience for tourists and locals alike at this busy location.

For our regional communities, the second stage of the Gumeracha project will complete the undergrounding of powerlines through the town centre. The Port Broughton project will not only complete the undergrounding of the entrance road to the township but also assist that community to gain a much-needed helipad for the regional hospital. The Peter Seppelt Road project at Seppeltsfield will allow for the heritage listed palms to grow freely without the interference from the existing overhead powerlines.

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. It also enables the PLEC members to gain a more honest sense of the benefits of undergrounding powerlines in future projects.

During the year, the Committee developed a tool that will assist in the decision making and prioritisation of future undergrounding projects. Based around the criteria set out in the Power Line Undergrounding Project Guidelines the tool includes weighting factors and a means of scoring to be used by the committee for each of the projects.

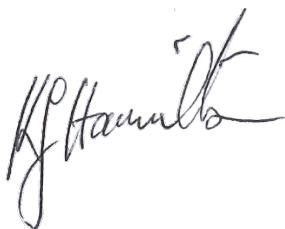
There were two changes to the membership of PLEC this year. Andrew Burnell replaced Ms Angela Crimes representing the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Kerry McConnell replaced Amit Dua representing the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT).

In November 2019 a small celebration was held at the Prospect Council to celebrate the completion of both Prospect Road and Hampstead Road projects. Further details of this celebration are contained in this report.

Members of the PLEC have contributed to healthy discussions and assessments of project submissions, which has ensured the provision of excellent outcomes for local Councils. During this year, the COVID-19 virus has resulted in some meetings being conducted on-line, requiring a much higher level of concentration, patience and understanding of all involved. As expected, all PLEC members have conducted themselves admirably and in a professional manner and 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, DIT, Telstra (and other communications companies) and the local Councils for their continued efforts in achieving quality project outcomes and to the OTR for their support they provide to PLEC including the timely approval of the PLEC program. I also wish to thank the Essential Services Commission for the Secretariat support for our Executive Officer and for providing meeting rooms.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Hamilton".

Kevin Hamilton  
Chairman  
Power Line Environment Committee

## 2019-20: PLEC Projects recommended and approved

The PLEC recommended eight projects for funding approval during 2019-20. The projects, tabled below, will result in undergrounding 3.86 kilometres of power lines.

The OTR approved projects during 2019-20 that are to be constructed during 2020-21. In accordance with the Act, the prescribed funding to be contributed by SA Power Networks (two-thirds of the program funding) is \$7.23 million. Proponents are required to contribute the remaining one-third.

**Table – PLEC projects approved during 2019-20**

Project Location	Council/Proponent	\$PLEC	\$Council
<b>Golden Grove Road, Modbury</b>	Tea Tree Gully	\$788,713	\$394,357
<b>Reservoir Road, Modbury</b>	Tea Tree Gully	\$780,080	\$390,040
<b>Albert Street Stage 2, Gumeracha</b>	Adelaide Hills	\$1,048,824	\$524,412
<b>Woodville Road, Woodville</b>	Charles Sturt	\$782,654	\$391,327
<b>Alawoona Avenue Stage 1, Marion</b>	Marion	\$1,316,058	\$658,029
<b>Bay Street, Port Broughton</b>	Barunga West	\$277,118	\$138,559
<b>Peter Seppelt Road, Seppeltsfield</b>	SA Power Networks	\$246,629	\$123,314
<b>Military Road Stage 1, Henley Beach</b>	Charles Sturt	\$1,987,226	\$993,613
<b>Financial year total</b>		<b>\$7,227,302</b>	<b>3,613,651</b>

DIT will install street lighting on the Modbury, Woodville, and Port Broughton projects. DIT has also granted permission for SA Power Networks' lighting infrastructure to be installed on the Gumeracha project as part of its country arterial roads network. DIT funded the installation of public lighting for PLEC projects on its roads during 2019-20 to the value of \$614,893.

## Funding over the long-term

The PLEC program has delivered \$230.7 million worth of projects since it began.

Over that time:

- SA Power Networks has contributed \$149.9 million
- Councils have collectively contributed \$72.9 million
- DIT has contributed \$8.5 million
- 62.1 percent has been spent in the Metropolitan area, and
- 37.9 percent has been spent in regional SA.

## 2019-20: Project construction

The following provides a summary of projects under construction during 2019-20.

### Completed

The following projects were completed during the year:

- Magill Road Stages 1 and 2, Magill
- Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide
- Wells Street Stage 3, Streaky Bay
- Jetty Road, Largs Bay
- Peake Terrace, Waikerie

### In progress

**Old Princes Highway, Littlehampton**– soil contamination which resulted in changes to the project scope delayed the start of this project, but it is now progressing well for a completion date of September 2020.

**Albert Street Stages 1 and 2, Gumeracha**– both stages of this project are being constructed together and are on-track for completion in December 2020.

**Eyre Highway, Wudinna**– the civil component of this work was completed in 2019. However, the restrictions caused to labour and supply of materials by the COVID-19 virus have resulted in a delay to this project which is now scheduled for completion in September 2020.

**Lower NE Rd, Stage 1, 2 and 3, Campbelltown**– this project is currently being re-sscoped and is expected to begin construction in 2021.

**Old Port Wakefield Road, Virginia**– this project is on-track for completion by December 2020.

**Sea Parade, Port MacDonnell**– this project has been affected by the restrictions caused from the COVID-19 virus. It is now expected to be completed by September 2020.



## Completed project pictures



**Wells Street Stage 3, Streaky Bay** – the undergrounding of stage 3 completes the undergrounding of power lines in this section of roadway in preparation for streetscaping by the District Council of Streaky Bay. Once completed, this will not only visually enhance the location but provide improved road safety measures for the locals and tourists alike. The reliability of the local electricity network is also expected to be improved with the inclusion of a ‘smart’ switch, installed in conjunction with the PLEC works.



**Magill Road, Magill** – undergrounding of the powerlines in this roadway is only the beginning of the substantial and innovative streetscaping proposed for the ‘Magill Village’ being undertaken by the City of Campbelltown and City of Burnside Councils.



## Completed project pictures



**Jetty Road, Largs Bay** – The undergrounding of powerlines along Jetty Road allows for the extensive streetscaping to be undertaken by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to enhance the amenity of this location for the local and wider communities.



Left – With the undergrounding of powerlines recently completed the streetscaping works have already begun by the Council on the intersection of Jetty Road and The Esplanade, adjacent to the historic Largs Pier Hotel.



Right – included in this project is the installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station. This is the first to be installed as part of a PLEC project and includes an innovative modification to the switchboard as part of the charger, allowing these chargers to be positioned without the need for a separate switchboard and metering enclosure.

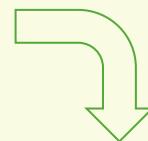
## Completed project pictures



**Peake Terrace, Waikerie** - Looking South from Matthews Street intersection towards McCoy Street. This section of Peak Terrace is a double- width road where footpaths are currently being upgraded to brick paving and additional street trees to be planted.



This section of Peake Terrace traverses the river-front recreational area and the football ground. The District Council of Loxton Waikerie have already carried out some upgrading of the exit and entrance to the riverfront precinct to improve traffic flow and improve pedestrian safety. Current streetscaping works will further enhance the public amenity at this location.



**Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide** – Looking South Towards the City. The removal of the powerlines on the Eastern side of the road will allow these historic Plane trees to flourish. The City of Adelaide council have installed specialised lighting, with a long outreach, to allow suitable lighting of the road whilst also minimising interference from the tree canopies.



## Prospect and Hampstead Roads

In November 2020 PLEC hosted an event to celebrate the completion of the entire lengths of both Prospect and Hampstead Roads.

The event was held at the new Prospect Council building and guests included, Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan (Member for Stuart and the Minister for Energy), Hon Rachel Sanderson (Member for Adelaide and the Minister for Child Protection), The Mayor of City of Port Adelaide Enfield Ms Claire Boan, Deputy Mayor of Prospect Mr Matt Larwood, elected members and staff from Prospect and Port Adelaide Enfield Councils, representatives from SA Power Networks, the Office of the Technical Regulator, ESCOSA and the PLEC.

As shown on the following slides these have been long term projects but the results are that both of these roads have undergone amazing transformations that not only look terrific but have also increased the community activity as well as improve the road safety along these roadways.

The event highlighted the importance of how the undergrounding of power lines via PLEC can be used to assist Councils achieving their strategic plans supporting better futures for their communities.



From left; CEO Port Adelaide Enfield - Mark Withers, Mayor Port Adelaide Enfield - Claire Boan, Executive Officer PLEC – Michael Magin, CEO Prospect - Nigel McBride, CEO SA Power Networks - Rob Stobbe, Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Deputy Mayor Prospect – Matt Larwood.





# Prospect Road

## Powerline Undergrounding Project 1994–2019

CITY OF PROSPECT

12 stages	25 years
Road length	5.6km
Total cost	\$13.14M
SA Power Networks	\$8.76M
City of Prospect	\$2.36M
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	\$2.02M

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure have invested the lighting and Council have put in a substantial amount of money into streamlining with a remarkable aesthetic change and commercial benefit. Prospect Road has been formally recognized with both state and national awards.



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Brandon Avenue 2001



Ormond Avenue 2003



Conrad Street 2001



Coronado Street 2013



Whitwyn Road 2013



Ormond Avenue 2013



Conrad Street 2013

# Hampstead Road

## Powerline Undergrounding Project 1999–2019

CITY OF PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD

5 stages	20 years
Total distance	4.2kM
Total cost	\$7.34M
SA Power Networks	\$4.89M
City of Prospect	\$0.62M
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	\$1.83M

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure have installed the lighting and Councils have put in a substantial amount of money this landscaping with a remarkable aesthetic change and commercial benefit.



North East Road 2016



Collingrove Avenue 2016



North East Road 2019



Manningham Street 2019



Collingrove Avenue 2019

# Hampstead Road

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## 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 or other eligible proponents. The Essential Services Commission of South Australia funds the administration support of our Executive Officer and provides meeting rooms.

**Committee appointments** – Andrew Burnell replaced Ms Angela Crimes representing the Department for Environment and Water and Kerry McConnell replaced Amit Dua representing the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.

### Members:

**Kevin Hamilton**



Chairperson  
Community Representative

**Joanne Davidson**



South Australia Tourism  
Commission Representative

**Kerry McConnell**



Department for Infrastructure  
and Transport Representative

**Pam Andritsakis**



Local Government Association  
Representative

**Amelia Greer**



PLEC Secretariat

**Michael Magin**



SA Power Networks  
Representative and  
Executive Officer

**Margaret Lee**



Conservation Interests  
Representative

**Kim Steinle**



(Deputy Chairperson)  
Community Representative

**Andrew Burnell**



Department for Environment and  
Water Representative

# **POWER LINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Annual Report 2019-2020**



**Est. 1990**