

PLEC

Power Line Environment Committee



Annual Report
2020-2021

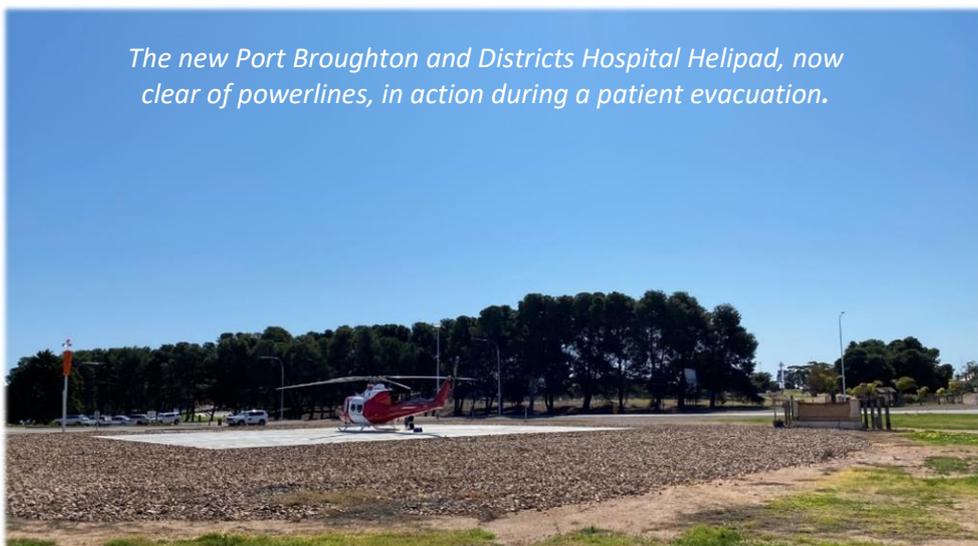
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The new Port Broughton and Districts Hospital Helipad, now clear of powerlines, in action during a patient evacuation.



Chairman's Report

27 August 2021

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 2020-21 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 ten projects to underground 3.84 kilometres of power lines. Those projects will be built during the 2021-22 financial year as determined under the forward-looking program schedule set out in the PLEC Charter.

SA Power Networks' contribution towards funding is \$7.31 million, which meets the funding prescribed by the Act and the participating Councils' collective contribution is \$3.65 million. Ten undergrounding projects were approved with 53 percent of funds being directed to four projects in the metropolitan area (Lower North East Road, **Campbelltown**; Church Street, **Port Adelaide**; Alawoona Avenue, Stage 2, **Marion**; and Military Road, Stage 2, **Henley Beach**) and 47 percent directed to six projects in regional SA (Bay Road, Stages 1 and 2, **Moonta Bay**; Albert Street, Stage 3, **Gumeracha**; Margaret Street, Stage 1A, **Mount Gambier**; Second Street, **Orroroo**; Sea Parade, Stage 2, **Port Macdonnell**).

Alawoona Avenue, Marion is the gateway to the Tonsley Innovation District and undergrounding the powerlines will improve the visual appeal, safety, and useability 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.

The Port Adelaide project will complete the undergrounding of powerlines in a predominantly commercial precinct where previous undergrounding projects have taken place. The Campbelltown project is a four-stage project, with all stages being constructed together as one project.

For our regional communities, the third and final stage of the Gumeracha project will complete the undergrounding of powerlines through the town centre. The Moonta Bay project is a seven-stage project with these first two sections being constructed in this period, beginning the transformation of this roadway into an attractive boulevard from the township to the seaside. The Mount Gambier project will complement the construction of a large sporting and concert complex. The Orroroo

project will increase the visual amenity of the town to provide improved facilities for the community as well as for the many tourists that visit the township.

It was terrific to see Councils publicly celebrate the completion or near-completion of projects. The City of Port Adelaide Enfield had a number of guests attend the site of the Jetty Road, Largs Bay Project at the completion of their stunning streetscaping. The District Council of Barunga West invited the Governor, the Hon Hieu Van Le, accompanied by Mrs Lan Le, to open the new helipad at the Port Broughton Hospital. The Adelaide Hills Council invited guests to attend on-site at Gumeracha to celebrate the removal of poles and powerlines in their main street.

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.

There was one change to the membership of PLEC this year. Klinton Devenish replaced Pam Andritsakis representing the Local Government Association.

Members have contributed to healthy discussions and assessments of project submissions, which has ensured the provision of excellent outcomes for local Councils. Like the previous year, the COVID-19 virus has again 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 in a professional manner and I am thankful to all PLEC members for their contributions throughout the year.

PLEC is grateful for the continued support of SA Power Networks, Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Telstra (and other communications companies) and the local Councils for their continued efforts in achieving quality project outcomes, and to the Office of the Technical Regulator 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 provision of meeting rooms and the Secretariat support for our Executive Officer.

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

2020-21: Project Construction

The following provides a summary of projects under construction during 2020-21.

Completed

The following projects were completed during the year:

- Old Princes Highway, Littlehampton
- Wudinna, Eyre Highway
- Virginia, Old Port Wakefield Road
- Port MacDonnell, Sea Parade, Stage 1
- Port Broughton, Bay Street
- Modbury, Reservoir Road
- Seppeltsfield, Peter Seppelt Road

In progress

Modbury, Golden Grove Road– changes to the original scope to avoid easement concerns resulted in a minor delay but the project is due for completion by September 2021.

Gumeracha, Albert Street– weather and recent Covid restrictions impacted the final completion of this project with only a few poles remaining to be removed.

Woodville, Woodville Road– This project is due for completion in September 2021.

Marion, Alawoona Avenue, Stages 1 and 2– The start of this project was delayed due to interference with other services but is expected to be complete by mid-2022.

Henley Beach, Military Road, Stages 1 and 2– The Council are completing the civil works for this project together with other major civil works associated with streetscaping and road re-surfacing. After encountering several significant issues that have delayed the start of the project, it is now expected to be complete in mid-2022.

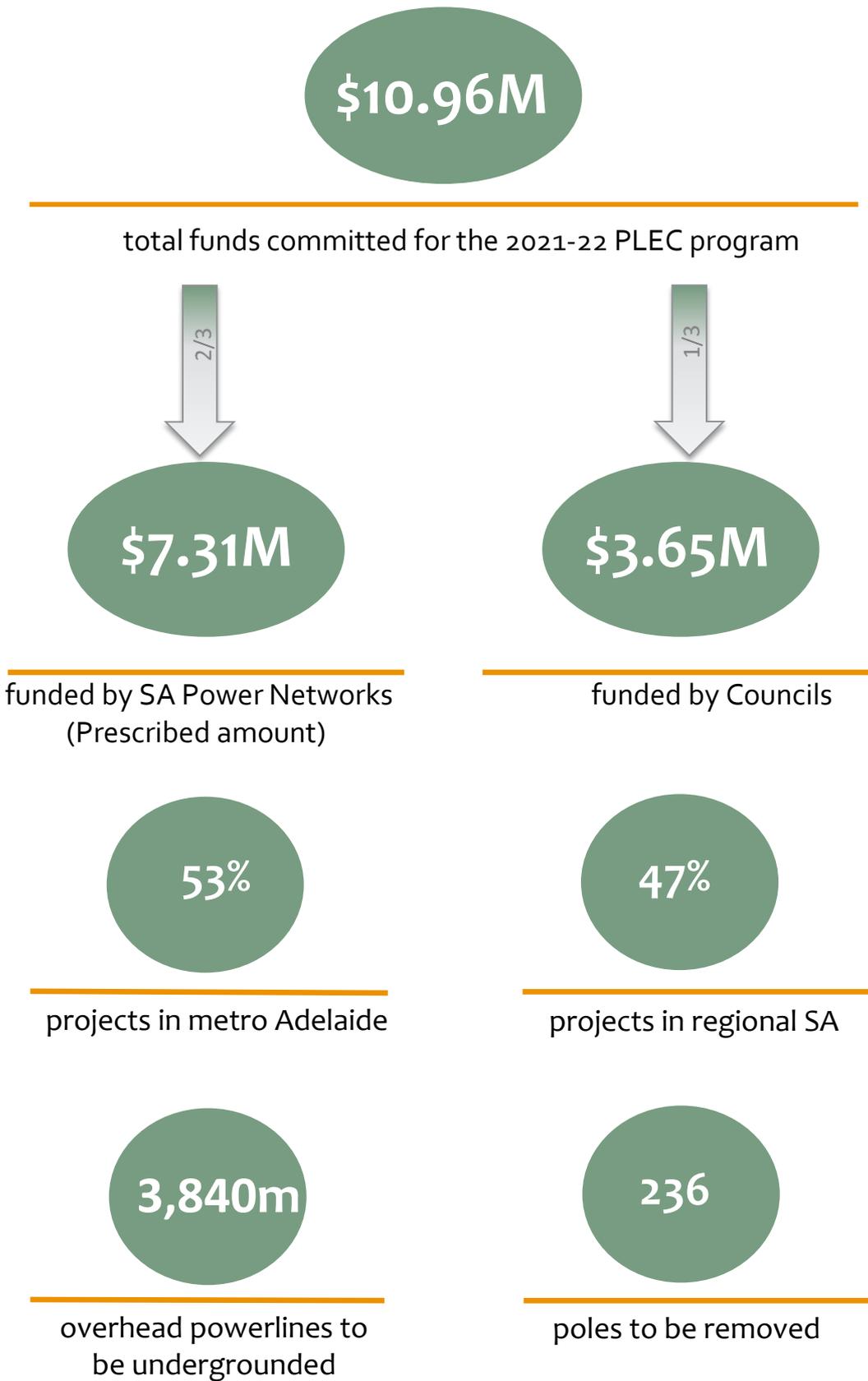
Port MacDonnell, Sea Parade, Stage 2 – This project is due for completion in August 2021.

Campbelltown, Lower North East Road– There have been several delays to the start of this project however work has now begun and is expected to finally be completed by mid-2022.



2021-22: Projects Overview

Funding approved for the 2021-22 undergrounding program



2021-22: Project Locations

Projects proposed for construction in the 2021-22 program are evenly spread across the Adelaide metropolitan area and regional South Australia.



**POWER LINE
ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**



2021-22: PLEC Projects Recommended and Approved

The PLEC recommended ten projects for funding approval during 2020-21. The projects, tabled below, will result in undergrounding 3.84 kilometres of power lines.

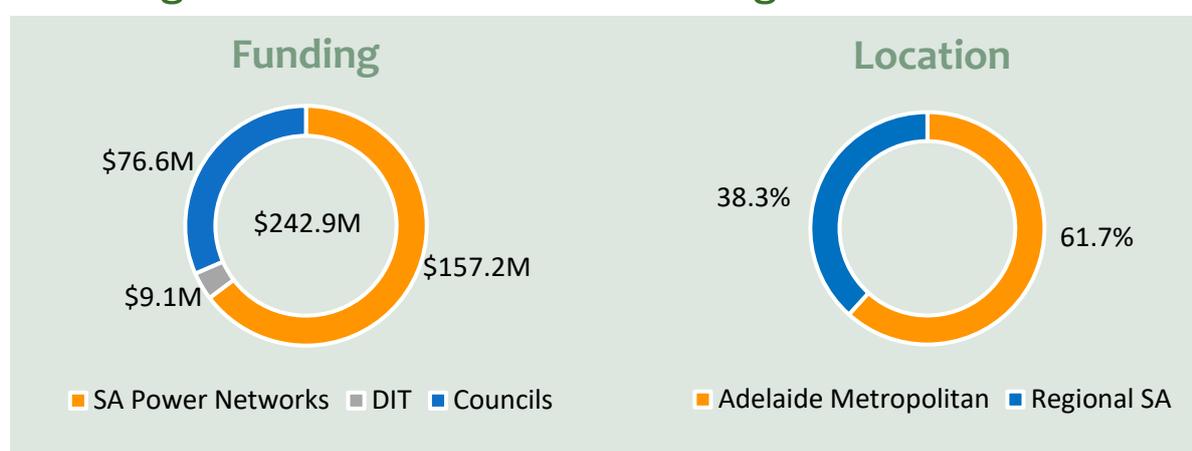
The Office of the Technical Regulator approved projects during 2020-21 that are to be constructed during 2021-22. In accordance with the Act, the prescribed funding to be contributed by SA Power Networks (two-thirds of the program funding) is \$7.31 million. Proponents are required to contribute the remaining one-third.

Table – PLEC projects approved during 2020-21

Project Location	Council/Proponent	\$PLEC	\$Council
Marion, Alawoona Avenue, Stage 2	Marion	\$1,316,058	\$658,029
Henley Beach, Military Road, Stage 2	Charles Sturt	\$1,987,226	\$993,613
Port MacDonnell, Sea Parade, Stage 2	Grant	\$270,000	\$135,148
Campbelltown, Lower North East Road, Stage 4	Campbelltown	\$1,126,225	\$563,113
Orroroo, Second Street, Stage 1	Orroroo Carrieton	\$385,589	\$192,795
Mt Gambier, Margaret Street, Stage 1A	Mount Gambier	\$1,456,331	\$728,166
Port Adelaide, Church Street	Port Adelaide Enfield	\$833,935	\$416,968
Moonta Bay, Bay Road, Stage 1	Copper Coast	\$654,146	\$327,073
Moonta Bay, Bay Road Stage 2	Copper Coast	\$531,877	\$265,939
Gumeracha, Albert Street, Stage 3	Adelaide Hills	\$130,000	\$65,000
Financial year total		\$7,307,881	\$3,653,941

DIT will install street lighting on the Campbelltown and Orroroo projects, and partially on the Marion and Mount Gambier projects. DIT funded the installation of public lighting for PLEC projects on its roads during 2020-21 to the value of \$568,000.

Funding and Location over the long-term



Completed Project Photos



Port MacDonnell – shows the undergrounding of stage 1 completed and the timely completion of the streetscaping by the District Council of Grant. Stage two of the project, currently under construction, is focussed on the foreshore with Council already undertaking streetscaping works. Once this final stage is complete it will transform the experience for the community and visitors to this attractive seaside town.



Modbury, Reservoir Road – undergrounding of the powerlines in this roadway completes the undergrounding of mains along this road from Montague Road to Smart Road. Once the streetscaping is completed, it will vastly improve the visual appearance of this roadway particularly for the large number of users of the very popular Civic Park.





Littlehampton, Old Princes Highway – This is the first stage of the undergrounding of powerlines along this section of roadway in the township of Littlehampton. With the streetscaping partially completed beforehand, the removal of powerlines has vastly improved the visual appeal of the town, improved road safety and reduced the need for tree trimming that allows vegetation to flourish, unhindered by powerlines



Seppeltsfield, Peter Seppelt Road – These historic and renowned heritage listed palms required severe pruning to comply with bushfire preventative legislation. This prompted a more unusual but well-deserved PLEC project to underground the powerlines along this roadway allowing these palms to flourish back to their normal, natural beauty.



Virginia, Old Port Wakefield Road

With streetscaping underway the removal of powerlines has had a dramatic effect to the main street of this fast growing and bustling township.



Port Broughton, Bay Street – this final stage of Bay Street completes the undergrounding of powerlines along this road from the town's entrance statement on the highway intersection to the sea. The removal of the powerlines enabled the construction of a much-needed helipad for the local hospital and for the whole region, making helicopter evacuation available directly from the hospital.





Wudinna, Eyre Highway – District Council of Wudinna have transformed this location near the Visitor Centre that includes walking and cycling paths to the town and uninterrupted views of ‘The Australian Farmer’ granite sculpture.



The **City of Port Adelaide Enfield** celebrate the completion of the Largs Bay, Jetty Road PLEC project displaying their wonderful streetscaping that includes artworks celebrating indigenous and migrant cultures.



The removal of poles and powerlines was cause for celebration for the **Adelaide Hills Council, the Gumeracha Main Street Committee** and the PLEC. The streetscaping, once completed will greatly enhance the visual appeal and public amenity of this beautiful, Adelaide Hills township.



The Governor, Hon Hieu Van Le, accompanied by Mrs Lan Le, and Mayor of the District Council of Barunga West, Ms Leonie Kerley formally opened the **Port Broughton District Hospital Helipad**, made possible by the undergrounding of the adjacent powerlines.



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 for our Executive Officer and provides meeting rooms.

Committee appointments – Klinton Devenish replaced Pamela Andritsakis representing the Local Government Association.

Members:

Kevin Hamilton



Chairperson
Community Representative

Joanne Davidson



South Australia Tourism
Commission Representative

Kerry McConnell



Department for Infrastructure
and Transport Representative

Klinton Devenish



Local Government
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

From the Committee

In August 2021, Kevin Hamilton retires from his position as PLEC Chair and from the Committee.

Kevin held the position of PLEC Secretary for approximately 6 years before this position was transferred to the Essential Services Commission of SA following the privatisation of ETSA Utilities. Kevin continued in ETSA Utilities managing the PLEC Projects team before finally retiring from the workforce in 2004. He was appointed to the current Committee in 2011 as a Community Representative and continued in that portfolio after being appointed Chairperson of the Committee in 2017.

Over approximately 20 years in PLEC, Kevin has been involved in 290 projects totalling \$172 million, the undergrounding of 212kM of overhead powerlines, and the removal of approximately 7,000 stobie poles.

Kevin had countless meetings with many PLEC stakeholders to ensure the prudent selection of projects, and the offering of advice that would contribute to a better outcome for the wider community. He was a tremendous and well-respected Chair, ensuring the Committee was focussed on the entire program that would assist SA Power Networks meeting its obligations under the Electricity Act, as well as the obvious benefits these projects bring to the wider community.

Being a keen traveller in SA, Kevin's immense knowledge of the State has been incredibly useful in discussing the history and trends of areas where PLEC projects have been proposed, particularly in regional townships where committee members may not be as familiar.

The Committee thank Kevin enormously for his input to PLEC over so many years and wish him a safe, happy, and healthy future.



POWER LINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
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