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More reliable electricity supply for Ringwood North \$750k underground powerline benefits more than 9,000 residents

More than 9,000 residents in Ringwood North and surrounding areas will soon reap the benefits of a \$750,000 project to increase power supply in the area.

Electricity distributor SP AusNet is constructing a new 1.8 kilometre underground powerline in Ringwood North, which will create additional electricity capacity in the area and remove load from existing powerlines that supply customers in the Bend of Islands, Christmas Hill, Croydon, Croydon Hills, Doncaster East, Donvale, Eltham, Kangaroo Ground, North Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Ringwood East, Templestowe, Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Warranwood and Wonga Park areas.

SP AusNet spokesperson Natasha Whalley said while the electricity capacity for the area was already sufficient, this project allowed for future growth in the area and would reduce load on the system on days of extreme heat.

"Planning for the project commenced in March 2009, so crews are looking forward to customers soon being able to enjoy the benefits of an even safer and more reliable power supply when the works are completed in March this year," she said.

"The new powerline will allow SP AusNet to balance the load on all main powerlines from the Ringwood North Zone Substation and provide capacity for load transfers in fault situations, therefore helping to reduce the number of customers adversely affected by power outages," she said.

Construction started in December last year and has involved a number of SP AusNet engineering, planning and construction crews and included a number of safety provisions such as traffic management on site and network planning to minimise the number of power outages while the work is being carried out.

The new 22kV underground power cable starts at the electricity zone substation at the junction of Oban Road and Warrandyte Road, Ringwood North and travels to an existing powerpole on Old Warrandyte Road, just west of Little John Road.

In addition to the new underground cable, a number of remote controlled switches and automated transfer schemes are being installed to ensure power can be restored as quickly as possible if there is a fault.

SP AusNet is the electricity distributor for the outer eastern and outer northern metropolitan areas of Melbourne, as well as the eastern and northern parts of the state, supplying electricity to more than 600,000 residents and businesses.

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