

Thursday 18 March 2010

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## South Gippsland to benefit from \$3 million electricity infrastructure upgrade

South Gippsland's electricity distributor, SP AusNet, will this week begin a \$3 million project to improve power supply for more than 6,000 customers in Inverloch, Wonthaggi and surrounding areas.

SP AusNet spokesperson Sean Sampson said the project would involve upgrading existing infrastructure at the Wonthaggi Zone Sub Station (ZSS), as well as constructing a new 22kV powerline to supply additional power during periods of high demand.

"Approximately fifteen kilometres of high voltage powerline will be either upgraded or built from scratch all designed to be capable of handling higher loads during periods of peak demand," Mr Sampson said.

"Wonthaggi ZSS will also have new infrastructure built that will provide a two points of supply for the surrounding towns.

"These measures will provide significant advances in securing the power supply against faults," he said.

SP AusNet's upgrade will also involve installing new 'self-healing' equipment and leading technology that allows more precise patrolling of lines for faults and, where available, automatic restorations within 60 seconds.

Mr Sampson said residents may notice SP AusNet crews working in and around Wonthaggi, Wattlebank and Inverloch for the duration of the project.

"Due to the nature of the work being carried out, crews will need to temporarily interrupt power supply in some areas, however, impacted customers will be advised in writing in advance of any planned work," he said.

"We understand it's never a good time to be without power, but these upgrade works will ensure customers endure fewer unplanned power outages in the future.

"SP AusNet would like to thank customers for their patience and understanding while we work to complete this vital project as safely and efficiently as possible," Mr Sampson said.

The project is expected to be finalised by mid-December 2010.

For more information about the project or the power outages, contact SP AusNet's Customer Service Centre on 1300 360 795.

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