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Ringwood North upgrade complete

9,000 residents to reap the benefits of undergrounded powerline

A \$750,000 project to underground a new 1.8km powerline has been completed, improving electricity reliability and increasing power supply for over 9,000 residents in Ringwood North and the surrounding areas.

Electricity distributor SP AusNet began the project in late 2009 to 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 the current capacity for the area was sufficient, however, the project was designed to allow for future growth in the area and would reduce load on the electricity network on days of extreme heat.

"Planning for the project commenced in March 2009, so it's great to now see the benefits of over 12 months of hard work," she said. "The new underground powerline will allow an even safer and more reliable power supply for the region."

"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 of the underground powerline started in December last year and has involved a number of SP AusNet engineering, planning and construction crews as well as a number of safety provisions such as on-site traffic management and network planning to minimise the number of power outages while the work was 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 have been 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 650,000 residents and businesses.

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