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SP AusNet strengthens electricity network for customers

SP AusNet's asset inspection and maintenance programs are well underway on its electricity distribution network throughout eastern Victoria to provide its 650,000 customers with a safe and reliable electricity supply.

This year, SP AusNet will devote \$272 million to inspect, maintain and replace electrical assets along with \$39 million to manage vegetation throughout its 49,000 kilometres of powerlines.

SP AusNet General Manager Asset Management, Alistair Parker, said that these programs underpin the company's commitment to servicing its customers.

"Each year, SP AusNet has comprehensive asset inspection, maintenance and vegetation management programs in place to further enhance electricity reliability, quality and safety for our customers," Mr Parker said.

"Our crews are working throughout our regional electricity network clearing 220,000 hazardous trees and branches from powerlines and inspecting 137,000 powerpoles and pole-top assets.

"We also have extensive asset maintenance programs, replacing an average 550 kilometres of powerlines, 2,500 powerpoles and many more assets," he said.

SP AusNet is also running targeted safety management and bushfire mitigation programs align to electricity safety management, bushfire mitigation and electric lines clearance regulations.

"We're running large programs across our network that will further mitigate bushfire risk and reduce electricity disruptions," Mr Parker said.

"This includes replacing bare powerlines with insulated powerlines, animal proofing powerlines and replacing wood crossarms with steel versions, just to name a few," he said.

SP AusNet is scheduled to meet all its regulatory requirements before the commencement of the declared bushfire season, ensuring a high level of preparedness for its network.

"Importantly, we're engaging with our customers and the communities we work in to minimise disruptions and safely conduct our work to improve our service to customers," he said.

The work undertaken by SP AusNet has improved supply reliability, reducing the average time its customers were without electricity for the 12 months to March by 13.7 per cent.

Ends...

About SP AusNet

SP AusNet is the largest diversified energy network business in Victoria, owning and operating more than \$10 billion of electricity and gas distribution assets, including the state-wide electricity transmission network. The company also has a non-regulated division, Select Solutions, providing utility services.

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Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, SP AusNet employs more than 1800 people to service 1.3 million consumers and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: SPN) and the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX-ST: X04).

For more information visit SP AusNet's website, www.sp-ausnet.com.au.