

2 October 2013

East Gippsland electricity network upgrade

SP AusNet is undertaking a large-scale maintenance program on powerlines connecting Bairnsdale to Omeo and Mallacoota on Saturday and Sunday October 19 and 20, requiring the shutdown of electricity supply for parts of the weekend.

The weekend shutdowns will give more than 100 linespeople safe access to replace more than 35 powerpoles and other assets, a more customer-friendly alternative to multiple weekly shutdowns to finish the critical work before bushfire season.

Jim Haylock, SP AusNet's Customer and Community Relationship Manager in Gippsland, said that all efforts have been made to limit the electricity disruptions to residents and businesses.

"We understand the inconvenience of being without electricity, which is why we have been doing 'live line work' where possible and pooling resources from across the state to complete the work in two days," Mr Haylock said.

"Condensing the work to one weekend means customers reliant on these powerlines won't be inconvenienced by weeks of ongoing outages to complete the necessary work before the bushfire and the tourism season begins.

"It's been five years since we've done a similar program in East Gippsland and we thank our customers for their patience while we do this important work to further improve the safety and reliability of their electricity network," he said.

SP AusNet has been liaising with key stakeholders throughout East Gippsland for weeks and notification letters with details of the electricity outage and tips for being without electricity were sent to customers this week.

Customers interested in receiving updates on the outages can register their mobile details via email at sms@sp-ausnet.com.au before Friday October 11.

Ends...

Details of the maintenance program

Saturday October 19

- Area of work: Bairnsdale to Nowa Nowa
- Duration: 8.30am – 4pm
- Towns with electricity supply impacted: Buchan, Omeo, Bruthen, Ensay, Swifts Creek, Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Marlo, Bemm River, Cann River, Genoa and Mallacoota

Sunday October 20

- Area of work: Nowa Nowa to Mallacoota
- Duration: 8.30am – 3pm
- Towns with electricity supply impacted: Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Marlo, Bemm River, Cann River, Genoa and Mallacoota

Scope of work includes replacing more than 35 powerpoles, 30 plus crossarms, 40 maintenance items, etc.