

Underground Power – NRUPP T2

FAQs

WHAT SORT OF UNDERGROUND POWER PROGRAM IS THIS?

It is a Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP). The following is a Western Power explanation of the TUPP:

We're always renewing and upgrading the distribution overhead network when assets are coming to the end of their service life. Traditionally, the work involves like-for-like replacement of these assets.

Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP) areas are selected based on Western Power's network driven approach in accordance with its network renewal undergrounding program.

The cost of undergrounding is shared between the State Government, Western Power, LGAs and property owners. The State Government funding is tiered based on socio-economic indicators to ensure all areas can benefit.

WILL THIS PROJECT HAPPEN AND WHEN?

That project is yet to be confirmed, however, the Town is currently seeking input from affected property owners to inform Council consideration of the matter. It is expected that the matter will be considered by Council in December 2022.

If Council resolves to proceed with the project is expected to commence late-2023 or early-2024 and be complete by mid-2025.

WILL THE NEW STREETLIGHTS BE THE SAME PLACE AS CURRENT LIGHTING?

It is unlikely that a new streetlight will be placed in the same position as a previous streetlight. With every project, a new LED street lighting system is designed and installed to the latest Australian Standards. Each project is different, and the positioning of new streetlights is reviewed during the design stage.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT UNDERGROUND POWER?

Council will make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with the project for the entire project area. If Council does proceed, all properties will be provided with underground power.

WHAT IF MY LAND IS VACANT?

Vacant land would be charged for the cost of underground power, just as for Council rates and sewerage. However there will be no connection fee payable by the property owner due to there being no property service connection.

DOES THE UNDERGROUND POWER GO ALL THE WAY TO MY METER BOX?

Yes. The contractor carrying out the project work will install a new underground cable within each property and connect it to the meter box when the street main cable has been energised. The property owner becomes the owner of the private underground cable from the point that it leaves the pillar and is responsible for any future repair or relocation if required. The below diagram shows a typical installation.

Note: The street cable (shown as “NETWORK”) will generally be only on one side of the street.

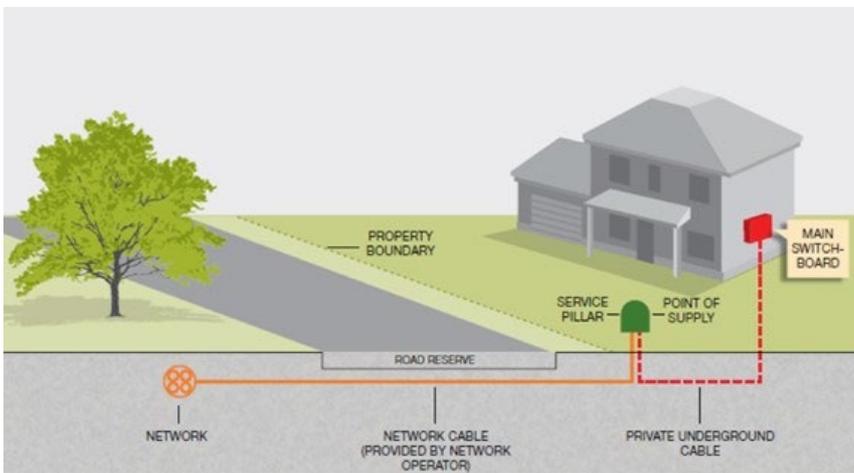


Figure courtesy of commerce.wa.gov.au

WILL I GET A NEW METER BOX?

Any property with a smart meter or a meter with Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) capability will retain the existing meter. Any property with a meter that does not have AMI capability will be replaced as part of the project.

Meters which are found to be malfunctioning may be replaced or repaired.

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUTSTANDING MONIES OWED IF I SELL MY HOUSE?

Any outstanding monies are settled as part of the property transaction; deducted from the vendor's proceeds from the sale.

CAN I DEFER MY PAYMENTS?

Ratepayers who are eligible Pensioners are entitled to defer the payment of the underground power charge in the same way they defer rates. The deferred amount will be charged in full, no rebate will be applied and payable in full at the time of the property sale.

CAN I CHANGE MY PAYMENT METHOD LATER?

In order for the local government to raise a loan, ratepayers must decide whether they wish to participate in the Lump Sum Payment option or an instalment option. The chosen payment amount will be levied in annual rate notices. Ratepayers will not be able to change their elected payment method once the local governments has entered into a loan repayment program with the State Government.

WHY IS THE COST DIFFERENT TO OTHER SUBURBS AND AREAS OF BASSENDEAN?

The cost for different suburbs and projects will vary depending on the unique site conditions, constraints imposed by ground conditions, and the number of properties within the nominated precinct. Western Power conduct an open tender process for each project and select the best contractor based on their selection model, the Town has no involvement in this process.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Western Power, please [click here](#) to be taken to their Underground Power website.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I BECOME A PENSIONER SENIOR DURING THE 10 YEAR INSTALMENT?

Ratepayers who become eligible Pensioners or Seniors during the term of the Underground Power Scheme are entitled to a proportional rebate in the first year of application and then the full concession, subject to capping, in subsequent years. Ratepayers who choose to make a Lump Sum payment at the commencement of the Scheme and subsequently become Pensioners or Seniors during the Scheme are not able to claim a concession. Seniors are only entitled to a concession in the first year of the Scheme.

WHAT HAPPENS IF CONTRACTORS DAMAGE MY PROPERTY, VERGE OR RETICULATION?

These works are a major civil project and even with the non-invasive methods used, some verge and front garden disruption will occur.

In the first instance, property owners/occupiers should direct any requests to the contractor, as they are responsible for all re-instatements and repairs and have all the appropriate resources. If the project proceeds, the details of the relevant contractor will be provided to the community.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Western Power website has a series of FAQs that will assist:

<https://www.westernpower.com.au/faqs/underground-power/underground-power/>