

Mt Barker Power Supply Project

New 66kV Line and Substation

Frequently Asked Questions



What does this project involve?

To meet the anticipated demands of the Mt Barker redevelopment proposed under the Ministerial Development Plan Amendment (DPA), SA Power Networks needs to undertake the following works:

- A new 66kV/11kV Substation – known as Mt Barker East, to supply the development in the eastern sector of Mt Barker
- A new 66kV overhead line to join existing Mt Barker South substation to the proposed new Mt Barker East substation
- Provision of 66kV overhead line easements (of a minimum width of 26 metres) between the substations and to the proposed Mt Barker South substation
- Provision for a future 66kV line corridor from the proposed new Mt Barker East to the north eastern corner of the development zone for a future substation between Nairne and Mt Barker.

What are the different options for locating the overhead lines and substations?

Four options are currently being considered for the 66kV line route, running from the Mt Barker South substation to a new substation at Mt Barker East, which also has two potential locations.

- Option 1 - following the connector road route;
- Option 2 - a built in buffer zone around the edge of the development area;
- Option 3 - following the buffer zone before cutting through the middle of the eastern development area;
- Option 4 - following connector road, ElectraNet transmission corridor and through the eastern development area.

See the Mt Barker 66kV project fact sheet and overlap project map for more detail on these options.

Why is this project happening now?

The current process is aimed at getting an early decision and understanding of the location of these assets to provide certainty for the State Government, District Council of Mt Barker, landowners, developers and community in the future planning and redevelopment of this land.

Once the decision is made, the detailed planning, design and approvals can be obtained. This will enable negotiations to proceed to prepare for the construction in 6 to 7 years.

Is this only a planned project or is it definitely going ahead?

SA Power Networks is progressing with the preliminary planning and design work for this project on the basis that it is a State Government-approved project.

What is the project timing?

Preliminary planning and design works are now underway, with feedback sought from affected landowners, developers, local community members, the District Council of Mt Barker and the State Government.

A decision on the location of the overhead power lines and substation will be made by SA Power Networks by the end of 2013. Construction is not expected to commence until about 2018/19.

Who is involved in the decision making process?

All feedback collected during this consultation phase will be provided to the Project Steering Group (consisting of representatives from State Government, District Council of Mt Barker and SA Power Networks) and the District Council of Mt Barker for consideration. They will then use this information to inform SA Power Networks of their preferred location for the line route and substation. SA Power Networks will then make a final decision based on this advice.

How will I be affected by this project?

Depending on the final option elected, landowners may find the power lines cross their land or run near the boundary. As a result, landowners may have visual effects from the lines. SA Power Networks will need to obtain a 26 metre wide easement from the relevant landowners to encompass the line route corridors.

Equally, developers with land holdings in the area will need to know the final line alignment and substation location so they can plan their road corridors and land subdivisions. If their land is crossed by the power line, an easement will also be sought.

Local community members will not be directly affected by the line or substation but may experience visual effects depending on their main viewpoints of the area.

I opposed the recent rezoning of my land under the Ministerial Development Plan Amendment process and do not want any redevelopment to go ahead. Why should my property be impacted now by this project?

We appreciate that the decision to rezone this land has been controversial and is not universally supported. SA Power Networks has a legal obligation to plan for and design the power supply network to support this future redevelopment. We are aware of the differing views of landowners and community members and will consider these views when we assess the most appropriate location for the overhead line and substation.

How can I provide feedback? Is this genuine consultation or has a decision already been made?

We are seeking feedback from all stakeholders through submission of feedback forms provided at the information sessions on 30 and 31 July and available to download from the SA Power Networks website (www.sapowernetworks.com.au). You can also contact us with your feedback on our General Enquiries line 13 12 61 or by email at customerrelations@sapowernetworks.com.au.

SA Power Networks has not made a decision on the location of this new infrastructure. Our assessment of the different options will be directly informed by landowner and community feedback, alongside the advice received from the State Government and District Council of Mt Barker.

Question: Is cost the main factor determining which option will be selected?

No. While cost is an important consideration, it is only one of a number of factors involved that will influence the final decision.

Question: What are the major impacts of the project?

With any new infrastructure constructed in a greenfield site, the initial impact is mainly centred around the visual

effect of the Stobie poles, connecting wires and the substation site itself. As the residential, commercial and industrial land uses are developed over the coming years, with associated road and street lighting infrastructure, the line and substation will cease to be a prominent feature and become more integrated into the local landscape.

Some trees and other vegetation may be removed or pruned as a result of the line and substation construction. These impacts will be minimised wherever possible and our final design will seek to avoid areas of significant vegetation and waterways.

Question: Why can't the new power lines be placed underground?

While the undergrounding of 66kV lines is technically possible, it is substantially more expensive than overhead structures – on the lowest cost estimate undergrounding would add about \$45 million to the cost. SA Power Networks is legally bound by the Australian Energy Regulator to design and construct electricity infrastructure in the most cost-efficient means possible. The cost of all power supply infrastructure is borne by all South Australian electricity customers, and overhead power lines are accepted as the most efficient method of transporting power at high voltages. It should be noted all lower voltage lines will be underground in the development, consistent with current Regulatory mandated expectations.

Question: How will the overhead lines and substation affect bushfire prevention strategies?

The Country Fire Service (CFS) and SA Police are consulted in the development of new overhead power lines and substations in areas prone to bushfires. The CFS always undertakes a risk management assessment before undertaking bushfire responses, and this assessment includes the presence of overhead lines and substations. Stringent vegetation clearance regimes are applied to ensure the risk of bushfire is minimised.



How to contact us:

You can phone our General Enquiries number on 13 12 61
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If you require interpreter services please call 13 14 50.

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If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment,
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TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for SA Power Networks
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