

St Huberts Island power supply upgrade

Ausgrid contractors will start next month on the next stages of works in the \$5 million upgrade of the underground electricity network across St Huberts Island.

As mentioned in our original newsletter of December 2010, the upgrade is needed to replace cables that have been supplying homes across the island since the early 1970s.

The 11,000 Volt cables were direct-buried into the soil, while low voltage mains in the streets on the island are an older-style cable that is being replaced across Ausgrid's network area.

The aim of the project is to upgrade and modernise these cables to ensure we are able to maintain a safe and reliable supply of electricity to over 500 homes across the island.

Project Update

Ausgrid representatives attended the quarterly meeting of the St Huberts Island Residents Association on Thursday, June 7, to provide an update on the project.

As you may be aware, there were some issues with the first stage of works in the vicinity of Helmsman Boulevard, Longarm Parade and Barracouta Avenue.

Ausgrid had hoped to use a bed-boring method for most driveway work across the island however this has proven to be incompatible with the sandy subsoil.

As a result, work in Stage 1 required open trenching along footpaths, which impacted on some vegetation and a number of driveways.

We apologise for any inconvenience these works may have caused.

Our contractors are presently reinstating lawn and driveways and, in consultation with Gosford City Council, will also be replacing trees with appropriate species.

We have also given homeowners an assurance that repairs to driveways will match existing materials as closely as possible.

Next Steps

As a result of feedback obtained from residents, Ausgrid has investigated other construction options to complete the remainder of work across the island.

While tests using an alternate boring technique – known as directional boring – were generally successful, the specialist engaged for these trials expressed reservations about the subsoil under footpaths and driveways.

As a result, Ausgrid will be installing conduits in roadways where there are three or more conduits required. If there are less than three conduits required Ausgrid will try to directional bore where possible in the footpath.

We will discuss options with residents in these areas likely to be affected prior to starting work.

Schedule of Works

Ausgrid has made available to the St Huberts Residents Association copies of plans showing details of the proposed locations of cable conduits.

These can be viewed at the association's website: www.sthubertsisland.nsw.au

Further information about each of the remaining stages will be provided to residents in each area as we finalise work schedules.

In total, work will continue for the remainder of this year, and into the first quarter of 2012.

Contacting Us

If you have any enquiries about the St Huberts Island electricity supply upgrade you can contact our project representative, Stephen Tremble, on 4951 9496 or stremble@ausgrid.com.au.

For enquiries about reinstatement of lawns, driveways and trenches, contact our contractors, CLM Infrastructure, on 9624 8799.

Ausgrid thanks the St Huberts Island community for their patience and co-operation as we move forward with this important project.