

# EQ

ENERGY QUARTERLY | ISSUE 2 | 2010

## Winter safety advertising campaign delivers results

Closing the curtains on noisy substations

Smart Meter trials in Perth

Mid West Energy Project explained

## Closing the curtains on noisy substations

A new program of installing foam 'curtains' around substations to reduce noise emissions is being adopted by Western Power.

In a Western Australian first, transformers at two Perth substations have been fitted with Pyrotech curtains, which absorb sound and dramatically reduce the level of noise that can emanate from transformers.

In response to customer feedback requesting noise reduction combined with a report produced by the Environmental Protection Authority, Western Power began looking at alternative methods to eliminate or reduce sound from transformers.

Traditionally, sound is blocked by the construction of high boundary walls around substations. This is costly and can take up to three months to build. The Pyrotech curtains method involves the installation of large sheets of thick foam, which are bonded to vinyl and enclosed in a weather resistant fibreglass fabric.

The curtains are hung around the transformer on a steel frame and can be erected in just eight days, and are half the cost of traditional noise mitigation methods.

Noise curtains have been installed at Herdsman and University substations, successfully reducing the noise level by up to five decibels. This is below the level required by the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulation 1997*.



Putting 'curtains' around substations is reducing noise impact in the community.

120

zone substations

22,000

new electricity connections each year

## WA trials smart meters in Perth's eastern region



Minister for Energy, Training and Workforce Development, the Hon Peter Collier and Western Power Managing Director Doug Aberle launch a smart meter trial in Perth's eastern suburbs.

In July the Minister for Energy, Training and Workforce Development, the Hon Peter Collier and Western Power Managing Director Doug Aberle launched Western Australia's first smart meter roll-out.

The roll-out is a trial of 9,000 meters in Perth's eastern region and is part of the Perth Solar City program.

The trial is expected to run until 2013, and information gathered will be used to evaluate the benefits of rolling out smart

meters more widely across the network.

The \$15 million trial is jointly funded by Western Power and the Federal Government through the Perth Solar City program, which is supporting households and businesses to better manage the way they produce, use and save energy.

Western Power will provide \$13 million of the total cost of the project and install nearly 9,000 meters to homes in Bassendean, Midland, Forrestfield and Darlington.

### Campaign results:

90% understand pruning trees on property is their responsibility

7% increase in use of professional arborists for safe pruning

community awareness of safe clearance zones up from 46% to 54%

## Winter safety campaign 2010

Western Power's winter safety campaign highlighted the dangers of trees coming into contact with powerlines with the message we can bring back your power but not your loved ones.

# Western Power explains its plans on the Mid West Energy Project (MWEP)

To meet the growing demand for energy in the Mid West, Western Power is set to build a new transmission line between Perth and Eneabba.

The new line will significantly increase energy capacity in the Mid West, enabling major generators and users of power access to the South West electricity grid.

The first stage of the project involves Western Power building a new 330,000 volt (330 kV) double circuit transmission line between Neerabup and Eneabba reinforcing energy supplies to the Mid West.

Western Power Managing Director, Mr Doug Aberle, said one of the major reasons for the power line was to meet the future needs of planned and potential large resource projects in the Mid West region, all of which will have substantial energy requirements.

**There are also a number of prospective renewable and traditional generation projects in the region that will be able to deliver power to the grid via the new line.**

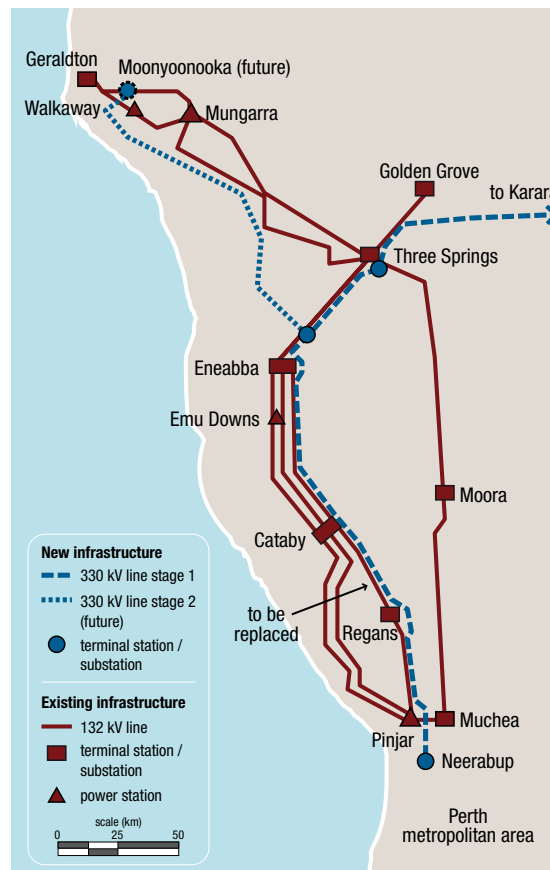
“As it stands, the existing network will not have the capacity to provide the required energy to future projects. MWEP is about ensuring Western Power is ready to meet these emerging demands.

“While Western Power is still to receive Regulatory and Government approval for the project, MWEP planning is progressing well and on schedule.

“Western Power has recently achieved a number of major milestones including signing a Heads of Agreement with Karara Mining Limited (KML), achieving Western Power Board approval (subject to achieving commercial and regulatory approval) for the business case and holding a series of public forums

on Western Power’s preferred solution to increasing capacity to the region.

“Should Western Power receive all approvals for the project in the anticipated time frame, we would expect to commence construction on the powerline in March 2011,” Mr Aberle said.



## 1,737

small scale renewable energy system approvals, July 2010

# Global news

## Energy efficiency rating to be compulsory for home sales

EU legislation will make it compulsory for energy efficiency ratings to be published in all UK homes for sale advertisements from 2012 giving buyers vital 'green' information. The legislation will effectively put a green, amber or red energy efficiency grading on every For Sale board in the UK. It will also help the government to deliver its ambitious plans of reducing household carbon emissions by 29% by 2020.

(source: *The Guardian*, 12 Aug)

## Energy smart living

An Australian family moved into EnergyAustralia's first Smart Home in Sydney in July to live rent-free for 12 months and test new technology including an electric car. The trial will investigate how households can reduce their environmental impact and how this may influence building smarter, greener and more efficient networks.

(source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 Aug)

## China closes factories to cut energy use

The Chinese government has ordered the closure of more than 2,000 factories in a large-scale effort to reduce the country's energy inefficiencies. 2,087 factories across 18 different industries must close by 30 September as they were deemed either highly energy-inefficient or lacking safety standards. The Chinese government is facing a challenge to meet its target of reducing energy consumption per unit of GDP by 20% this year.

(source: *The Hindu*, 9 Aug)

## Australia's first Smart Grid Smart City

Newcastle will be the site of Australia's first commercial-scale Smart Grid Smart City.

The \$100 million demonstration project will be led by a consortium headed by Energy Australia and will test smart grid technologies to ensure their suitability for Australian conditions.

Western Power assisted in the overall development of Energy Australia's bid and will work with them throughout the Smart Grid, Smart City trial.

Western Power Networks Division General Manager, Mark de Laeter, said he was delighted with the announcement.

"We were selected as a member of Energy Australia's team because our Smart Grid expertise is recognised nationally," Mr de Laeter said.

"We are running the Perth Solar City program, as well as our unique Green Town program and a number of other initiatives as part of WA's own Smart Grid program.

"We will contribute our growing expertise to the Smart Grid, Smart City trial and continue to look for opportunities to accelerate the development and deployment of cost effective Smart Grid initiatives in WA.

The main demonstration site will be in the city of Newcastle, with other parts of the trial conducted in Scone, Homebush, Ku-ring-gai and the Sydney CBD.

The Energy Australia consortium includes CSIRO, IBM Australia, AGL, GE Energy, TransGrid, Newcastle City Council and the NSW Government as well as Western Power.

# People

## **New General Manager Corporate Services**

**Paul Italiano** has been appointed Western Power's General Manager Corporate Services. Previously he worked at Wesfarmers General Insurance, as General Manager Business, HBF Health Funds, leading Financial Services and Strategic Development, Ernst & Young as Senior Manager Corporate Finance, and RAC as Chief Financial Officer.



## **Hon George Cash AM appointed to Western Power Board**

The **Hon George Cash AM** has been appointed to the Western Power Board of Directors. He was a member of the Western Australian Parliament for nearly 25 years and is a former Minister of the Crown, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council and President of the Legislative Council. He is also a former Chairman of the Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council.



## **Manager Customer Solutions**

**David Fyfe** has joined Western Power as Manager Customer Solutions. David has worked in the nuclear power, resource and telecommunications industries and has many years experience in a variety of technical and commercial roles. His role is to provide account management of Western Power's larger customers.



## Events

<b>06 - 07 October 2010</b>	All-Energy Australia Exhibition and Conference 2010 - Melbourne
<b>27 - 29 October 2010</b>	Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010 - New Delhi
<b>23 - 24 November 2010</b>	National Smart Grids Forum - Industry Update 2010 - Sydney



This information is available in alternative formats and languages on request.