

Underground power project construction information

Switching to underground power improves the safety and reliability of your electricity supply while enhancing the look of your neighbourhood. It also supports greater uptake of renewable technologies like solar.

The work involves installing new underground cabling, primary equipment, and new LED streetlights and the removal of the existing distribution overhead network.

While the underground power project is being delivered you may experience some impacts from the construction works.

We're committed to keeping you informed and minimising disruptions while this essential work is underway.

On the following page is a guide to what you can expect during the project. We'll keep you informed with regular updates on each stage of construction.

Need more information?

Email us at:
undergroundpower@westernpower.com.au



Laying underground network cable.

General construction work information

Project stages and advice

Our contractor will keep you updated on what's happening every step of the way:

Stage/notice:	Timing:
Overview of works	Before starting: letterbox drop outlining the project
Customer mains installation	1 week ahead of commencing works
Street services installation	1 week ahead of commencing works
Streetlight installation notice	1 week ahead of commencing works
Changeover to underground power	2 weeks prior, with a reminder 2 days prior to changeover
Outage notifications	Notifications directly by Western Power
Removal of poles and wires	2 days prior to works commencing
Completion notice	Delivered as soon as works inside and outside the property boundary are complete



Clockwise from left: Streetlight installation, dismantling works and underground power green dome.

What to expect during construction

Construction impacts

While we work, there may be some noise, dust, and vibration, but we'll manage these under strict safety standards.

Only well-maintained equipment will be used, and noisy work will be specifically scheduled to minimise disruption.



Compacting around primary equipment site.

Works timing

Our crews will work within regular construction hours for your area. After-hours work may sometimes be necessary – for example, to ensure public safety or to reduce power disruption. If this happens, we'll coordinate with local authorities to choose the best timing and notify you in advance.



Digging an entry/exit hole for a drill shot.

Outages

During the switch from overhead to underground power, you'll experience a power outage, typically lasting a few hours.

You'll receive an outage notification two weeks before the planned interruption, outlining a window of time for the work.

The timing of the outage may vary slightly to accommodate scheduling needs, and crews will make every effort to contact you directly before the outage begins.

Traffic management

Safety is our top priority when working near roads and footpaths. To complete the work, traffic management will be in place to manage vehicle and pedestrian flow safely.

Please take care around work sites and follow the appropriate signage. We carefully plan to reduce vehicle movements and schedule activities to limit impacts on local traffic.



Dismantling works.

Reinstatement

We'll return any disrupted areas, like verges or driveways, to their original condition after the work is complete. We recommend taking photos of your property beforehand for peace of mind.



Reinstatement.

Plan around construction

Consider timing any renovation projects or major garden makeovers outside the undergrounding project construction phase.

Before work begins, you'll receive the contractor's contact information in your mailbox. Please keep this information handy throughout the project so you can easily reach out if you have any questions or concerns during construction.



Elevated work platform (EWP)/bucket truck.



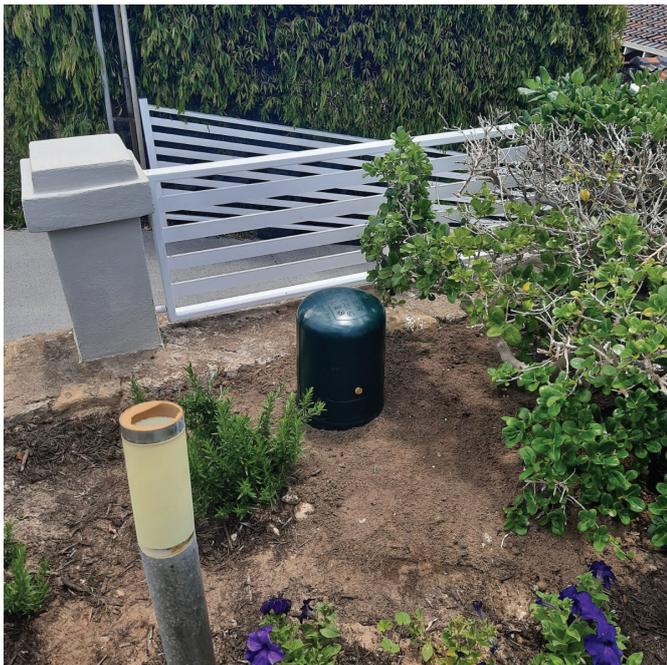
Network cable laying.

Key stages of work

Customer mains installation

Works commence on all properties that have overhead services to lay cable from the property boundary to the meter box. The crew will typically knock on your door to let you know if they will be on your property. During this stage you can expect:

- vehicle movement in area
- survey pegs installed for the new pillar location, if required
- protective conduit installed, typically using an air compressor, to protect the electrical cables from damage, moisture, or interference
- works around property (possibly on roof) to connect mains cable to the meter box
- the contractor may also need to access the roof to connect the cable to the switchboard
- cables installed and made ready for the later power supply changeover to the underground network (during a following phase of the project)
- the contractor to take a photographic record of the property prior to commencing work to ensure all areas are reinstated to their original condition once the works are completed.



Network pillar, where customer mains are connected to the network.

Street services installation

New underground network cable installed along the verges of each street. During this stage you can expect:

- digging to locate existing services
- vehicle movement in area
- safety exclusion zones around verges and footpaths, with traffic management to safely manage traffic flow
- directional drilling rigs and excavators for trenching work on verges
- the excavation will typically remain open until the works at that location are completed, the area will be fenced off until backfilling is finished
- multiple cables to be installed, these will be energised at a later phase of the project
- installation of new pillars (green domes) on property boundaries
- the underground network will be tested and energised, ready for customer changeover.



Entry preparation for a road crossing drill shot.



Streetlight installation.

Streetlight installation advice

New LED streetlights are progressively installed as we go. This involves:

- vehicle movement on the street, including cranes to install the new poles
- contractor digging holes for streetlight poles
- safety exclusion zones around verges and footpaths
- traffic management to safely manage traffic flow

Prior to works commencing the contractor will take a photographic record of the verges to ensure all areas are reinstated once the works are complete.



Cable termination/jointing.

Power supply changeover

There will be an outage when your property is switched from overhead to underground supply. This is generally a few hours to enable our crews to safely complete the changeover.

We'll notify you 2 weeks ahead, and the crew will also remind you by letter box drop or door knock 2 days before. During this stage:

- a notification before of the power outage (these typically occur between 7:30am – 4:30pm)
- vehicle movements on the street
- crews attending your property to connect and test the new green dome, as well as testing the network connection to your meter box
- if required, crew may also access your roof to remove the overhead service.



Dismantling works.

Removal of poles and wires

The transition to underground power is nearly complete. During this stage, the contractor will complete the dismantling of the overhead network. Your help in removing any vehicles or personal property from your verge will help us complete the work safely and efficiently. During this stage you can expect:

- vehicle movements on the street
- cranes and equipment to remove poles and wires
- safety exclusion zones around verges, footpaths and parking areas, with traffic management to safely manage traffic flow
- any remaining streetlights installed and energised.



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