

Underground power projects

If your area is part of an underground power project, your property will be transitioned from being serviced by overhead powerlines to a safer, more reliable underground power supply.

New underground power cables will be connected to the electricity network in the road reserve, typically under verges. The work includes installing underground cabling, customer mains, primary equipment, and new LED streetlights, as well as removing the existing overhead distribution assets.

We're committed to minimising disruption during the work and to restoring any affected areas to their original condition as soon as possible.

Reinstatement work

Reinstating areas disturbed by our work is an important part of underground power projects. It ensures we meet property owner expectations and local government requirements.

Before work starts, the contractor will take a visual record of road reserves and verges so they can be reinstated as closely as practicable to original condition.

Timing

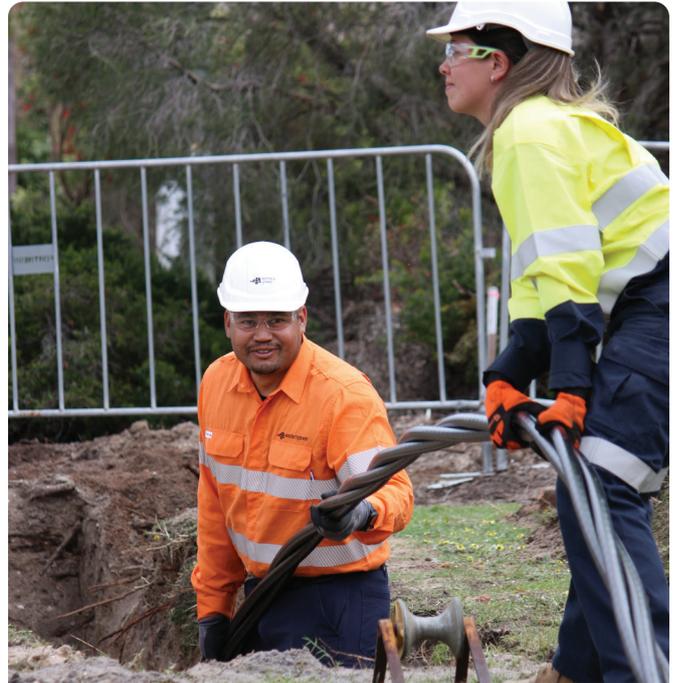
- Western Power contractors generally begin reinstating areas as they progress through each zone.
- In some cases, final reinstatement of a verge area may not be possible until overhead lines are removed at the end of the project. Temporary reinstatement may occur until works on the network are complete.

Maintained turfed lawn

- If grassed areas are disturbed, layers of topsoil and turf are retained and/or replaced, and the area re-established by light compaction and watering.
- Once reinstated, the contractor will maintain the lawn for three weeks to support re-establishment. After that, it's the resident's responsibility to maintain and water it.
- Synthetic grass will be patched (not completely replaced), unless local government requirements specify otherwise.

Non-turf areas

- Areas that aren't grassed, maintained, or reticulated will be reinstated using the retained topsoil to match the immediately surrounding area.



- Recovery of plant growth in non-turfed areas will be limited without reticulation.

Landscaped areas

- The contractor will make every effort to preserve landscaped areas and materials for reinstatement, in line with local government guidelines.

Street trees and vegetation

- An important benefit of underground power is allowing the street canopy to flourish.
- The contractor will minimise impact on vegetation, with works around street trees and roots carefully managed under local government guidelines.

Reticulation

- If reticulation systems are damaged, they will be repaired and restored to working order as soon as practicable.
- If you notice leaks or reticulation isn't working during the works, please contact the contractor as soon as possible.



Driveways

- If a driveway excavation is required, the area will be backfilled with temporary reinstatement on the same day.
- The driveway will be restored to its original condition.

Paving

- Reinstated paving will be matched to the texture, surface type and colour of the existing paving.
- Concrete paving will be reinstated in full panels, not partial sections.

Identifying services

Before any work starts, the contractor will identify the location of underground services such as electricity, water, gas, telecommunications and sewer infrastructure. They will use a range of methods including reviewing existing plans (e.g. DBYD plans), site surveys, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and potholing to verify service alignments.

Underground services will be marked on site. Markers may include colour-coded indicators (such as temporary flags/pegs or paint) and, where needed, temporary PVC marker pipes.

To help keep the site safe for community and crews, these markers will remain in place until the project works are complete and the area is fully reinstated.



Excavation

- Any excavation will be kept to the minimum size, width, and depth required to carry out the work safely and efficiently.
- While a trench is open, safety barriers or trench covers will be in place to protect workers and allow pedestrians to move safely through the area.
- Most trench excavations will be backfilled with temporary reinstatement on the same day.
- Some trenches may need to remain open for several days to complete works.
- All excavations will be backfilled with clean sand or soil and compacted for stability.



Temporary reinstatement

In some cases, a work area will be made safe and functional before final restoration is completed.

This temporary reinstatement may be required if the contractor needs to return to site or is waiting on specialist equipment or materials.

Disturbed areas will generally be reinstated to pre-construction condition as soon as practicable after works at that location are complete.

Responsibility for reinstatement

The contractor is responsible for all reinstatement works. If you have questions or concerns, please speak with them directly.

Please note the contractor will not accept responsibility for, or reimburse, repairs carried out by a third party.

Further Information

Learn more about reinstatement impacts and at: westernpower.com.au/underground-power

Western Power

General enquiries 13 10 87

Emergencies & faults 13 13 51 (24hrs)