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Dear «Salutation»

Alfred Cove East Underground Power Project Start Up Newsletter – February 2019

In August 2016, the State Underground Power Program (SUPP) Steering Committee advised that the Alfred Cove East proposal submitted by the City of Melville for SUPP Round 6, had been selected to be surveyed in order to determine the level of community support for inclusion in the program. In late January 2017, the Alfred Cove East Underground Power Project was selected by the Minister of Energy along with 16 other project areas for inclusion in the State Underground Power Program. The City of Melville is pleased to announce that the construction works are planned to commence in March 2019 in the Alfred Cove East project area.

Project Construction Schedule

The works to underground the power supply to the Alfred Cove East Project are intended to start in March 2019 and will take approximately 12 months to complete.

The project will be split up into zones for construction purposes, as shown on the map overleaf.

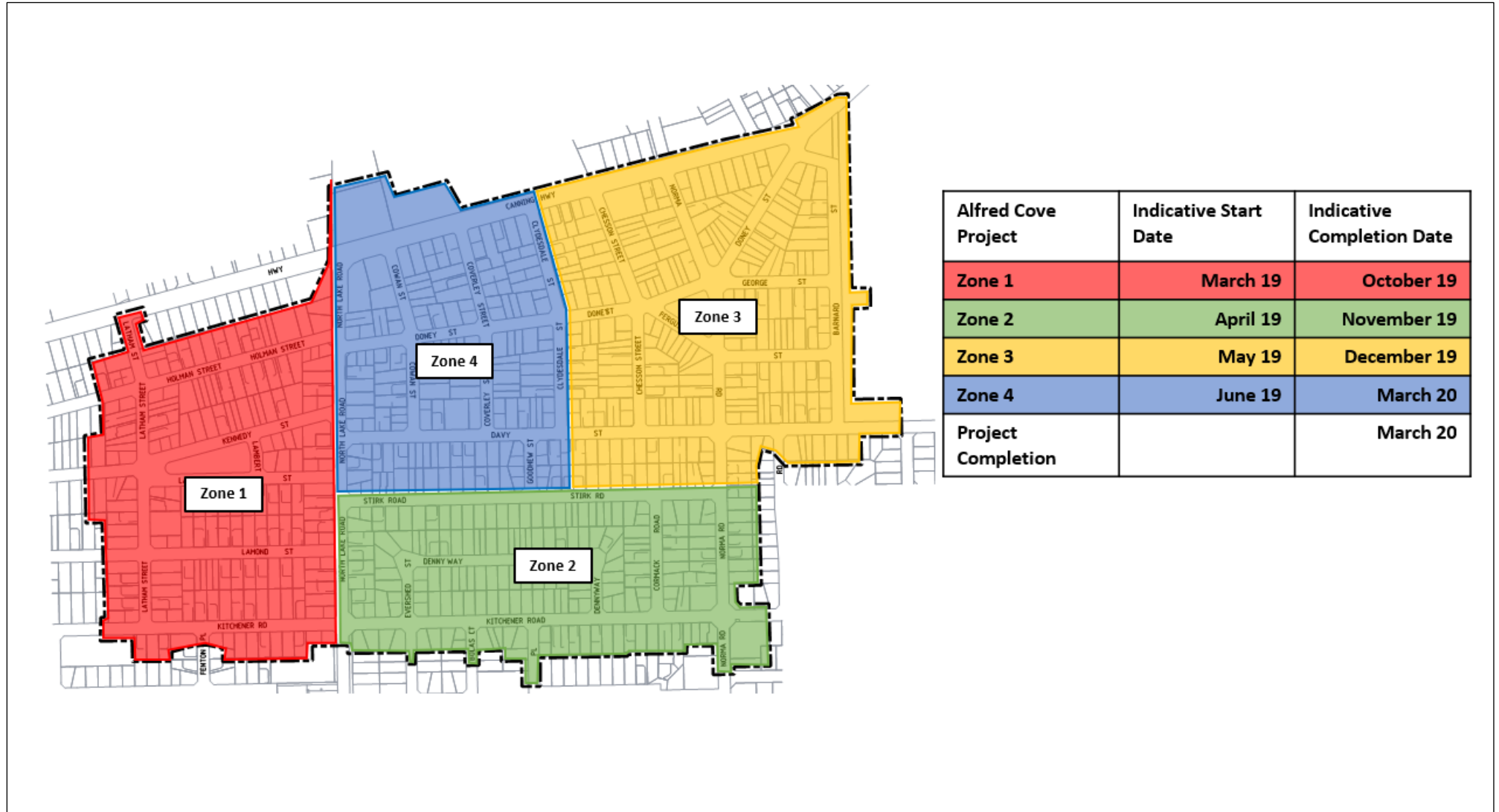
The works will start in Zone 1 and proceed in sequence by zone through the project to minimise the impact to occupiers and enable any reinstatement of verges and properties efficiently.

The anticipated schedule for each zone is referenced on the project schedule and included with the project maps overleaf.

*Technical constraints may require changes to some dates as the project proceeds and you will be advised of these if necessary.

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Alfred Cove East Zone Map and Construction Schedule



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Communication to the Residents Throughout the Project

There will be a series of advice letters delivered to each property as the various stages of the work commence. Each advice will have information regarding the work and the contractor's phone number so queries can be dealt with efficiently. In addition to this project start up newsletter, there will be project milestone updates posted on the following websites.

<https://www.melvillecity.com.au/building-and-planning/building-and-renovating/guidance-for-builders-and-owner-builders/state-underground-power-program>

<https://westernpower.com.au/community/work-in-your-area/underground-power/>

Stage 1 - Property Service Installation

A new underground cable will be installed from the front boundary connection pillar to the meter box of each property that presently has an overhead connection. A Property Service Installation Advice will be delivered to the property a few days beforehand and the work should only take a day or two.

Stage 2 - Street Services Installation

Power cables will be installed under the verge in each street using directional drilling to minimise impact. A number of holes are necessary for the drilling process, cable jointing and the connection of pillars to the system. Most street services work, including verge reinstatements, should be completed within 21 days; however work may take longer near equipment cabinets or on street corners. Occupiers will be advised of any restrictions on access to their properties or any necessary street closures. A Street Services Installation Advice will be delivered to the property a few days before this work commences.

Stage 3 - Changeovers

Once the property and street services installations in your zone have been completed, changeover from the existing overhead to the new underground system will take place. A Changeover Advice will be delivered to the property a few days beforehand detailing the process.

Stage 4 – Removal of overhead poles and wires

This will take place after all properties served by an overhead circuit have been changed over but please be aware, some poles and wires may need to remain longer as they are supplying other streets that are yet to be changed over. A Removal of Poles & Wires Advice will be delivered to the property shortly before work took place.

Completion of Cable Installation Work

After the cable installation work has been completed, a Completion Advice (Cable Installation) will be delivered to each property. The Completion Advice will confirm that the work is complete in and around the property.

Streetlights

The new streetlights are typically located near the edge of the roadway, and are generally placed on the extensions of side boundaries alternating on both sides of the road. Their locations are often different to the streetlights that will be removed as part of the project (please see photos). The new streetlight layout is designed to conform to the relevant Australian Standard. The streetlights will be installed and switched on in stages as the new circuits are energised, however there may be some streetlights that conflict with the old overhead system and cannot be installed and commissioned until the overhead system has been removed.

Connection Pillars

Green connection pillars are installed as part of the street services work. Connection pillars are located just inside the front boundary of private property (please see photos). Typically they are installed in the front corner of every second property wherever possible to serve two properties or more. The locations of the connection pillars are the most appropriate in terms of the existing infrastructure and practical installation of the property service.

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Approximately 20% of the connection pillars are universal pillars, which are larger because they contain circuit control equipment. The system designers have determined their locations, as they are essential for the management of the circuitry in the area.

Project Reinstatements and Repairs

These works are a major civil/electrical project and even with the non-invasive methods used, some verge and front garden disruption will occur. To assist the reinstatement process, the condition of all verges and work areas will be recorded prior to work commencing.

Property Owners/Occupiers should direct any concerns or requests in the first instance to the project contractor, as they are responsible for all reinstatements and repairs. The resident project advices delivered during construction will contain the contractor's contact details.

Property Owners/Occupiers can also contact the City of Melville or Western Power on the numbers listed below if they have any further concerns.

Property Owners/Occupiers will not be reimbursed for work done by any other party to reinstate or repair damage caused by the project contractor during the work without the project contractor's prior authorisation. Property Owners/Occupiers are encouraged to carry out minor reinstatements or repairs if they wish at their own cost. The contractors reserve the right to charge for time taken to investigate complaints that are subsequently shown to be clearly unrelated to the underground power work.

Project FAQs

Will the underground power go all the way to my meter box?

Yes. The contractor carrying out the project work will install a new underground cable (private underground cable) within each property and connect it to the meter box. The property owner becomes the owner of the private underground cable from the point that it leaves the pillar and is responsible for any future repair or relocation if required. The contractor will attach an illustration showing the route of this cable inside the meter box.

Will I have to re-wire my house if I have an older house?

No. Inspections of existing wiring within existing properties will not be carried out as part of the project. If during the connection process, it is observed that any existing wiring is in a dangerous or unstable condition, the property owner will be notified and a report made to the appropriate electrical safety authority.

Do I have to call in an electrician?

No. All work connected with the project, both within the road reserve and within each private property, will be carried out by the contractor engaged to carry out the project.

Will I get a new electricity meter?

No. Power will be supplied to the existing meter via underground cable. Unless the meter is identified during the connection process as malfunctioning, it will not be replaced as part of the project.

Will the contractor need to access inside my property boundary as part of these works?

Access inside the boundary will be required once to install an underground cable from the boundary to the meter board, and a second time to change over the property to the new underground network. Please note, if you have an existing pillar (green dome) and underground cable already installed we will still need to access your pillar for associated works. Installation advices will be delivered to residents prior to this work being carried out.

Will I be able to access my property at all times during these works?

Yes, access will be maintained for property owners.

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Will my power supply be interrupted during the project?

Yes. There will be a short period of outage when a property is converted from overhead supply to underground supply. Generally two to three hours is allowed for the changeover, however, the actual outage is quite often much shorter than that. Each property owner will be notified a few days in advance when the changeover outage is planned.

What if I need power on constantly because of a medical condition?

Any property where a person resides who is registered as having a medical condition which necessitates constant power supply will be given special consideration when the changeover is programmed. The affected resident or his/her carer will be contacted so that arrangements can be made to carry out the changeover without risk to the affected person's health or welfare.

Will the entire street be closed off during these works or just the area of immediate works?

No, traffic management will be in place where work is being carried out and occupiers will be advised of any restrictions on access to their properties or street closures associated with the work.

Will the new streetlights go in the same positions as the old streetlights?

No. Street lighting will be designed in accordance with the current Australian Standard. In order to meet that standard, new light poles will be positioned and spaced appropriately. Positioning of new street light poles will be determined during the design stage, taking into account the location of existing infrastructure and street trees within the road reserve.

When will the old poles and wires be taken away?

This will be the very last part of the project. The old poles and wires will be taken away after all properties have been connected to the underground supply and all testing and commissioning has been carried out satisfactorily. There may be a short period of time where the old street lights are not working and the new street lights are also not operational. Alternatively, there may also be a short period of overlap where both the old street lights and the new street lights are operational.

What will happen if my property, verge or footpath at the front of my property is damaged as part of these works?

All street verges are video-recorded before any work commences as a complete record of original conditions. Affected verges and footpaths will be reinstated to a condition as close as possible to that which existed prior to works commencing.

How will this work be carried out?

Western Power's contractor will deliver an installation advice notice a few days before their work commences. They will begin by locating existing underground services in preparation for trenching and horizontal drilling of verges to install the new cables. Excavation works may occur on the verge in front of your property. We will endeavour to minimise damage to footpaths, reticulation and crossovers wherever possible while keeping disruptions to a minimum. All work excavations, extruding cables and conduits will have bunting or fencing around them to ensure the safety of local residents.

Before and After Photos



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Typical Green Connection Pillars



For further enquiries regarding the project please contact:

City of Melville

Phone: 08 9364 0666 or 1300 635 845 (during business hours)

Email: melinfo@melville.wa.gov.au

Western Power

Phone: 13 10 87

Website: westernpower.com.au/underground-power-projects

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