

City of Geraldton Underground Power Project

Start Up Newsletter – October 2017

Message from the Mayor

Power Pole Days Numbered

The undergrounding of power in the CBD has been on the agenda for many years and Council is very pleased it will finally be able to see this legacy project through to completion. I am sure we are not the only ones counting the days until the dangerous and unsightly timber power poles and wires on Chapman Road and Durlacher Street are finally removed.

Removing the power poles and lines along these two streets will have a number of positive outcomes for the community including improved community safety and enhanced streetscapes.

The power poles on Durlacher Street have been an ongoing safety concern. Over the years, a number of vehicles have collided with the poles whilst downed power lines due to inclement weather have also been the cause of blackouts in the CBD.

In a few months' time, after the timber power poles have been removed, the City can begin to beautify these important thoroughfares by implementing projects, which directly align with the recently adopted City Centre Revitalisation Plan.

Our first project will be the renewal of the footpaths within the underground power project area located on Durlacher Street between Marine Terrace and Sanford Street.

The State Underground Power in the City of Greater Geraldton CBD Project is set to begin in early November. During the works, parking in Carpark 3, located on the corner of Durlacher Street and Anzac Terrace, will be free of charge. This will ensure ease of access for clients and customers of businesses and shops located within the project area.

The \$1.1 million project, which involves undergrounding of power on Chapman Road between Cathedral Avenue and Forrest Street and on Durlacher Street between Sanford Street and Marine Terrace, will be jointly funded with the Western Power and the State Government providing \$500,000 via the Underground Power Program Localised Enhancement Project fund and the City of Greater Geraldton contributing the other \$500,000.



Picture Caption: On 1 August, the first electric streetlights were officially handed over to the Geraldton Municipal Council and turned on by Mayor Kempton. Image shows the first electric light being erected across from the Geraldton Town Hall, today the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery. (Photo courtesy of The Dusty Box Facebook page)

Project Details

The State Underground Power Program in Geraldton is a partnership between the Government of Western Australia (through the Public Utilities Office), Western Power and the City of Greater Geraldton, to improve amenity and security of power supply.

The works to underground the power supply to the areas of Geraldton shown on the attached map will commence in late October 2017. As shown on the map, the work will proceed continuously through each quadrant of the project to minimise the impact on occupiers and enable the reinstatement of footpaths /verges and property as quickly as possible. The anticipated timetable for each Stage of the work is shown on the project map included.

Information about the Project

There will be a series of **Advices** delivered to each property as the various stages of the work commence. Each **Advice** will have information about the work and the contractor's contact details so queries can be dealt with efficiently.

Stage 1 - Property Service Installation

A new underground cable will be installed from the front boundary 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. The cable is installed using underground drilling technology to minimise the impact on front gardens. It usually runs from where the Connection Pillar is to be installed, to the nearest point of the building, up in the cavity or externally to the roof space, across the ceiling, then down to the rear of the meter panel. Both ends of the cable remain unconnected until Changeover takes place.

Stage 2 - Street Services Installation

Locating of all existing underground services (e.g. Water, Gas, Power, and Telecoms) will commence prior to the installation of the new underground power cables which will be installed along the footpath in each street using directional drilling to minimise any impact. A number of holes are necessary for the drilling process, cable jointing and the connection to a connection boxes and or pillars to the system. Most Street Services work, including reinstatements, should be completed within 10 -15 working 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/lane 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 each area have been completed and energised, changeover from the existing overhead to the new underground system will take place. Changeovers should occur around January 2018 and occupiers will receive a **Changeover Advice** a few days beforehand that details this process.

Stage 4 – Removal of Poles and wires

This will take place after all properties served by an overhead circuit have been changed over, around late January to February 2018. Please be aware that while we will endeavour to remove them as soon as possible after properties are changed over, some wires and poles do need to remain longer as they are serving other streets that are still to be changed over.

Connection Pillars

These will be either a connection box (non-metallic enclosure) installed at front of property or green mini pillar's installed as part of the Street Services work. Mini Pillar's must be located just inside the front boundary of private property, usually in a front corner, and in every second property wherever possible so it can serve two properties. The locations of the connection boxes and or Pillars are the most appropriate in terms of the existing infrastructure and ease of installation of the Property Service.

Around 10% of the Connection Pillars are universal pillars and these 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.

Streetlights

The new lights are generally located near the edge of the roadway, or more closely spaced and where possible, are placed on the extensions of side boundaries and alternated to both sides of the road. Their locations are often different to the old lights as the layout is designed to conform as closely as possible to the relevant Australian Standard. The new lights will be erected and switched on in stages as the new circuits are energised, however some lights that have been designed to be installed on the same side as the existing overhead will not be erected until the overhead has been removed.

Completion of Cable Installation Work

After the cable installation work has been completed, a **Completion Advice (Cable Installation)** will be delivered to each property. It will confirm that the work is complete in and around the property and, as the contractor may not always be aware that damage has occurred, will ask occupiers where applicable to check the area around the work and advise the contractor of any repairs you feel need to be addressed as a result of their works.

Reinstatements and Repairs

These works are a major civil project and even with the non-invasive methods used, footpaths/verge disruption will occur. To assist with this process, all footpaths/verges and work areas will be filmed prior to work commencing.

Property Owners/Occupiers should direct any requests regarding enquiries to the contractor, as they are responsible for all reinstatements and repairs. The various **Advices** delivered during the project will contain the contractor's contact details. Property Owners/Occupiers can always contact Western Power or the City of Greater Geraldton on the numbers listed below if they are not satisfied with the contractor's response.

Please Note: Property Owners/Occupiers will not be reimbursed for work done by any other party to reinstate or repair damage caused by the contractor during the work without the contractor's prior authorisation. Property Owners/Occupiers are encouraged to carry out minor reinstatements or repairs if they wish, provided no reimbursement is sought. 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.

Transmission Lines

There are no Western Power transmission lines in the project area all overhead wires and poles within the project Boundary will be removed with the exception of 3 interface poles (please see project boundary map attached)

Project Schedule

The Major civil works and property service installations including horizontal drilling to install the new underground network will commence 31 October 2017 and proceed through the Project area in stages /quadrants outlined on the map. The project will run for a duration of **4 Months** with a planned completion date of end of February 2018

The above dates are indicative only and intended as a guide to when the various work stages will occur. Technical constraints may require changes to some dates as the project proceeds and you will be advised of these if necessary.

Contact Details

For additional information about the Geraldton State Underground Power Project, please contact:

Cable Layers Australia T: 9414 9113 or admin@claustralia.com.au

Western Power - T: 13 10 87 or www.westernpower.com.au

City of Geraldton - T: (08) 9956 6600 or council@cgg.wa.gov.au

This project will greatly improve the overall amenity of the area and bring significant benefits in terms of safety, security and continuity of supply. We assure you of our commitment to carry out the work with as little impact on property and occupiers as possible, and ask for your cooperation and tolerance for the duration of the project.

For more information on the Project, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on the City website www.cgg.wa.gov.au

Project Area

