

FACT SHEET

Powerline Replacement Fund

Powerline Replacement Fund aims to reduce the risk of fires starting from electricity assets. This fact sheet outlines our bushfire mitigation work.

What are we doing?

To improve the safety of our electricity network, we're conducting significant bushfire mitigation work in high bushfire risk areas.

This work includes replacing selected overhead high voltage 22kV and Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) powerlines with overhead insulated cables, underground cables or other conductor technologies.

Known as the Powerline Replacement Fund, it aims to reduce the risk of fires starting from electricity assets.

The Victorian Government is allocating \$200 million for these works, as part of its wider Powerline Bushfire Safety Program.

Where is it being done?

Different areas across Victoria have been selected to be part of the program based on their fire risk and threat to communities.

The Victorian Government works with the Fire Services Commissioner, Energy Safe Victorian and other technical experts to select the areas.

You can keep up to date on current works by visiting our [Powerline Replacement Fund](#) webpage.

What are the powerlines being replaced with?

The work required in each location differs according to the environment and the type of powerlines already in place.

As the owner and operator of the power distribution network in your area, we work with the Victorian Government to develop solutions and conduct the work to replace selected high voltage powerlines.

In each of the selected areas, we evaluate the powerlines to determine the most appropriate and viable replacement solutions.

If powerlines are able to remain above ground, we determine what type of insulated powerline best suits the location.

The options are:

Aerial bundled cables: These are suited to densely vegetated areas;

Spacer cables: This option is suitable in areas where tall vegetation is sparse and the powerlines are easily accessible; and

Underground cables: Where viable to install underground cables, we use our company-developed 'hybrid cable system', making it more efficient to install and connect to existing electricity infrastructure

These options provide us with the flexibility to replace powerlines across a wide range of landscapes and terrain.

Once the Government has approved the replacements, we consult with stakeholders, secure underground cable easements and develop environmental management plans before beginning work.

What if powerlines selected for replacement are located on my land?

We rely on your cooperation regarding access to your land and existing electricity infrastructure

If powerlines are located on your land, we will consult with you before any works begin.

If underground high voltage cables are proposed, we will seek agreement with you to formalise an easement on the property title.

Will my power be interrupted during the works?

Some planned power interruptions are necessary for us to carry out the works safely. Works are planned to either avoid an interruption or to minimise the number of interruptions.

If appropriate, mobile power generators may be used to avoid multiple and prolonged interruptions in particular to large sections of our electricity network. We will notify you in advance of any planned power interruption.

For more information, please visit www.ausnetservices.com.au or www.energy.vic.gov.au

For any other questions, please contact us on 1300 360 795 or pbsp@ausnetservices.com.au