Connect WANNEROO

Sustainability Undergrounding Power Citywide

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The City of Wanneroo is one of Western Australia's largest growing local governments, home to more than 250,000 people across 685km^2. Our vast urban and rural areas present risks and opportunities for community safety and amenity.

In established urban suburbs, ageing overhead power infrastructure is increasingly vulnerable to storm damage and extreme weather events causing power outages, compounding cost-of-living pressures already impacting many community members.

Overhead power poles constrain urban canopy cover and streetlight placement, impacting road safety. Recent bushfire events highlight increasing importance of safe and resilient infrastructure in highest-risk areas to protect communities from changing climate impacts.

The City's overhead power network is due for renewal, presenting opportunity to transition to an underground system addressing risks, supporting business continuity, strengthening community resilience and reducing maintenance costs.

Undergrounding power in highest-risk areas, or implementing other mitigation measures, would significantly reduce threat of overhead power infrastructure starting and spreading bushfires.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE?

Western Power manages asset renewal through its infrastructure replacement program. In some beneficial and cost-effective cases, underground power is delivered through the Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP).

No City suburbs are currently identified as proposed or potential underground power projects. Some areas are classified as long-term opportunities over 15–30-year horizons. This leaves communities exposed to frequent power outages and ongoing safety, reliability and environmental risks.

Ageing overhead power infrastructure in high bushfire risk areas falls outside the scope of the TUPP, leaving rural communities vulnerable. The City supports WALGA State Council's advocacy for increased State Government funding for TUPP, which they endorsed in April 2026.

WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY NEED?

Population increases in the City's established areas places greater demand on ageing infrastructure and increases the number of people exposed to risk. The community requires a coordinated program to transition to underground infrastructure, prioritising areas of highest bushfire risk, older suburbs with ageing infrastructure and lower socio-economic communities with limited capacity to co-fund upgrades.

HOW CAN WE MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN?

The City of Wanneroo asks the State and/or Federal Government to:

- Western Power to prioritise City suburbs under the Targeted Underground Power Program.
- State Government to increase funding allocation towards undergrounding power to fast track the TUPP, particularly in high-priority, low socio-economic areas including Koondoola and Girrawheen.
- State Government to prioritise undergrounding power in high bushfire risk areas, including Yanchep National Park and Mariginiup.

For more information, visit
wanneroo.wa.gov.au/advocacy



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