Strathfield Cable Replacement Project

Frequently Asked Questions - July 2022

A similar cable project in progress

Frequently asked questions

Ausgrid is planning a new cable route between Ausgrid's substation on Lloyd George Avenue, Burwood and Ismay Reserve, Homebush. These facilities are connected by existing fluid-filled underground 132kV sub-transmission cables that run between the two sites. The cables are approximately 50 years old and are nearing the end of their serviceable life.

We are proposing to replace the existing cables with new 132kV underground cables and conduits (plastic pipes) bypassing the cable transition point in Columbia Lane.This project is part of a program to retire fluid-filled cables across our network.

Below are some frequently asked questions to help assist the community and our stakeholders by providing some useful information about the Strathfield Cable Replacement project.

1 *What is the planning approval process for a cable replacement project?*

Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Ausgrid is the nominated determining authority for assessing and approving works for the Strathfield cable project.

2 *Why did you choose this preferred route?*

There are several things we need to consider when planning cable routes. These include:

- cost (minimising the impact on electricity bills)
- minimising community and traffic impacts
- avoiding existing utility services in roads
- ground conditions
- environmental and heritage impacts
- technical feasibility.

Ausgrid will aim to continue to refine the preferred route and will work with the community to minimise impacts where feasible.

3 *Why didn't you choose more direct routes, such as along Parramatta Road?*

Ausgrid are working to proceed with the least impactful route as possible.

Ausgrid have considered Parramatta Road as the most direct route between the overhead powerline and our substation in Lloyd George Ave.

In assessing this route option, Ausgrid has corresponded with relevant government agencies. Work along Paramatta Road would need to occur during night work, and being a key arterial road, would mean a longer construction period.

Work along Paramatta Road would also require Ausgrid's cables to be buried with a significantly deeper trench due to the current make up of Paramatta Road, being asphalt on a base of thick concrete.

Deeper trenches would result in more impactful construction methodology being required, meaning a large impact on the community, including an extended construction period and noisy night works.

4 Why does the preferred route cross along multiple small, residential streets?

The preferred route has been identified on the basis of:

- Least impact taking into account community and environmental impacts, construction impacts, and ongoing impacts from the operation and maintenance of the cables;
- Construction feasibility including avoiding existing services and being able to cross Powell's Creek, Parramatta Road, the Northern Train Line and the WestConnex Motorway;
- Technical feasibility in meeting all of Ausgrid's technical requirements including achieving required cable ratings (i.e. the amount of power the cables need to deliver); and
- Least cost of feasible routes.

The preferred route will be able to be constructed during standard daylight construction hours, to standard Ausgrid construction detail and will also be able to take advantage of conduits installed as part of the WestConnex project to minimise disruption to Concord Road.

5 What should I expect during construction?

This project will involve installing the new cable through streets between Burwood and Homebush. Retiring the existing cable between the substations would involve some work at various locations along that cable route and at the substations themselves.

This work will involve:

- Digging trenches in roads to lay conduits (plastic pipes) to accommodate the new cable.
- Backfilling trenches and temporary resurfacing of impacted areas (trenching and temporary resurfacing takes about three days outside each property depending on ground and weather conditions).
- Excavating underground joint bays at various locations along the cable route.
- Feeding in and joining sections of cable at the joint bay locations.
- Permanently restoring impacted areas, in consultation with Council and Transport for NSW once the overall project is complete.

Retiring the existing cables will include:

- Excavating existing joint bays along the cable route.
- Removing cable equipment.
- Disconnecting the cables.

As with any construction site, there will be some impacts including noise and dust. Ausgrid will make every effort to keep this to a minimum and will finish the work as quickly as possible. There will be temporary traffic, access, and parking disruptions along the cable route during construction. We will make every effort to keep these to a minimum.

6 How will you minimise impacts to residents during construction?

Ausgrid will work with the community, our stakeholders and the successful contractor who will be carrying out the work to minimise our impacts during construction to the surrounding residents. We will require our contractor to keep residents informed ahead of any impactful work with work notifications and doorknocks ahead of time to allow residents to plan around our work if necessary.

We will also work with the residents on required respite periods and ensure our materials, trucks and equipment is stored conveniently so as not to impact surrounding residents.

We will also reinstate the roads we work on as we progress along the final route, so that there is as little impact to those surrounding the final route as possible.

7 What happens next?

Ausgrid will seek community and stakeholder feedback on the preferred route before making any required design amendments. We will work to incorporate feedback received from the community and our stakeholders as much as possible.

We will provide the community and our stakeholders with an update on the progress of the route design one we have an update available. We will provide continued updates as the project progresses through concept design, detailed design, when we award a contractor to carry out the work and when the project timeline has been finalised.

Ausgrid