

Powerline replacement works notice



Powercor will be replacing sections of High Voltage (HV) lines in the Hepburn, Macedon and Mount Alexander areas as part of a Victorian Government funded bushfire safety program. The program was established to identify initiatives that would reduce the likelihood of powerlines causing bushfires in the future and follows the final report from the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission.

What are we doing?

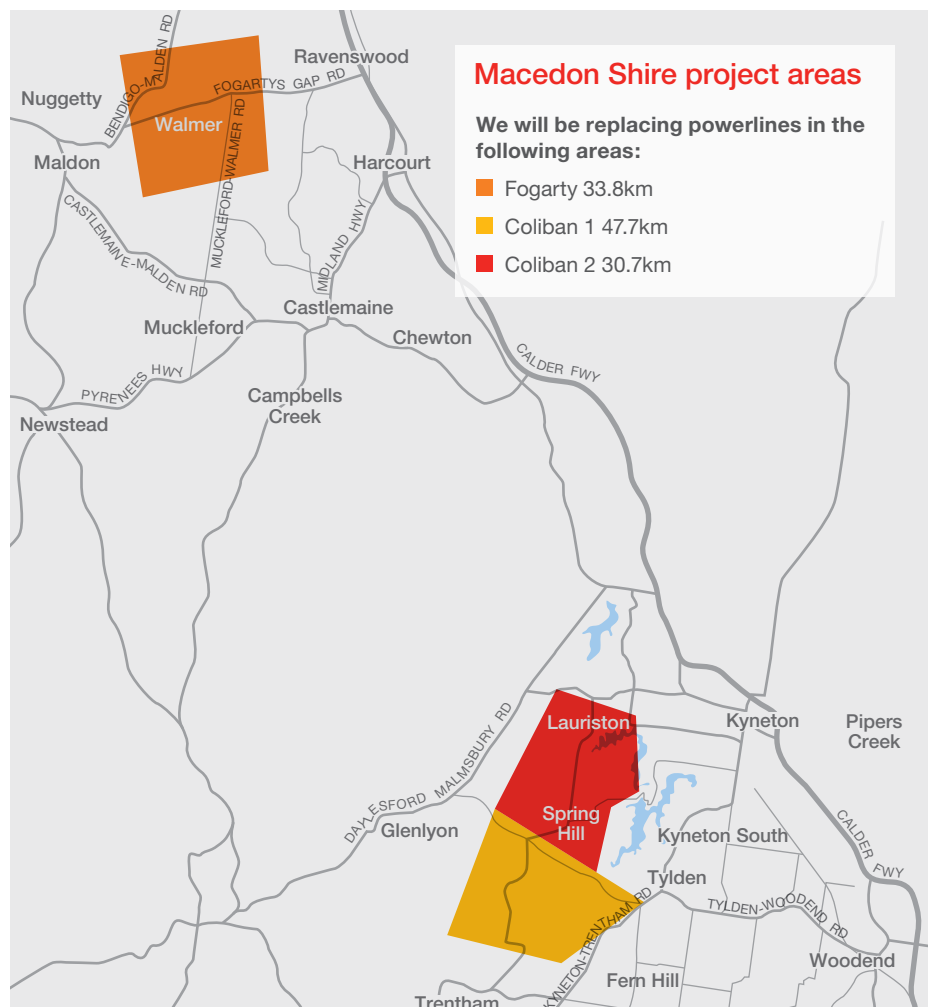
- Initiating ploughing, boring or trenching works to lay underground cable which will involve lane closures
- Installing and jointing of cables on our poles and on the roadside
- Retiring overhead wires and poles
- Replacing existing conductor with covered conductor.

How will this impact you?

- Some roads will be affected by lane closures
- Some roads will incur traffic restrictions due to roadside works
- Planned outages towards the end of each construction period.

How will this initiative benefit you?

- Reduced risk of bushfires started by powerlines
- Some improved visual amenity
- Less vegetation maintenance required in certain areas
- Increased power supply reliability resulting from the undergrounding of powerlines and/or installation of high voltage covered conductor.



Typical project timeline

Week 0

Receive approval from State Government to commence construction

Week 11 to 20

Cable installation and reinstatement commences

Week 20 to 25

Customers are progressively changed over from the old network to the new network

Week 1 to 10

Finalisation of planning permits, cultural heritage approvals and land owner agreements

Week 18 to 24

Cable jointing works are undertaken

Week 25+

Old bare wire network is removed (NOTE: this may occur many weeks or months after the previous step due to access constraints in paddocks if it is wet)

The Powerline Replacement Fund (PRF)

The PRF is part of the Powerline Bushfire Safety Program (PBSP) and will see powerlines in the highest consequence bushfire areas replaced with insulated overhead conductor and/or underground cable as these are less likely to start a fire.

This program complements Powercor's extensive bushfire mitigation programs which operate all year round to ensure our assets and customers are protected as much as possible against the risk of bushfires. To date, Powercor has completed works costing \$52 million in the Colac Otway, Surf Coast, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander Shires, removing more than 200 kilometres of bare wire and installing 260 kilometres of underground powerlines.

A step by step guide to planning and process

An extensive planning process is undertaken before construction commences:

- The Victorian Government advises Powercor of Local Government Areas to target
- Powercor identifies specific project areas to replace powerlines
- The project undergoes several evaluation stages to ensure the cultural and environmental impacts from the construction work is minimised
- Plans are submitted to the local council for planning permit approval
- The council manages the planning application as per existing Council planning processes
- Powercor commences construction once the planning permit has been approved.

Once the planning permit has been approved, you will see us out and about installing new powerlines.

Our work will include ploughing, boring or trenching of certain roads to lay underground cable. We will also be jointing cables on our poles and on the roadside, and retiring specific overhead wires and poles.

There will also be planned outages required towards the end of each construction period, to enable us to change over existing customers from the old overhead network to the new underground or covered conductor network.

Twelve months after construction is completed for each project, a post construction assessment by an independent arborist is undertaken to assess that no trees have been inadvertently lost or damaged due to our works.

Get involved

Further information

For more information on the project, please visit www.powercor.com.au/prf

If you'd like to speak to someone, please ring us at **1300 301 101**

We want to hear from you

We want to understand what matters most to you as we continue to build a network for the future.

Please share your feedback with us at prfproject@powercor.com.au

