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**Government
of South Australia**

POWERLINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2024-25 Annual Report

POWERLINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

GPO Box 618, Adelaide SA 5000

<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/consumers/energy-grid-and-supply/power-line-environment-committee>

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2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT for the POWERLINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To:

Honourable Tom Koutsantonis MP

Minister for Energy and Mining

This annual report meets the reporting requirements of *the Charter of the Powerline Environment Committee* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016 – *Boards and Committees: Remuneration, Governance and Diversity, section 8.1.* and is verified to be accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Submitted on behalf of the Powerline Environment Committee by:



Steve Murray

Chairperson

Date 15 September 2025

From the Chairperson



It is my pleasure to present the Power Line Environment Committee's Annual Report for 2024/25.

This year, PLEC continued to support South Australian communities in enhancing the visual amenity of their streetscapes through the undergrounding of overhead power lines. These projects not only improve the aesthetics of our urban and regional environments but also contribute to broader outcomes in tourism, heritage preservation, and community pride.

The Committee remains committed to working collaboratively with local councils, network licensees, and other stakeholders to deliver projects that reflect the unique character of each location. In 2024/25, we saw a strong focus on integrating undergrounding works with complementary streetscaping—ensuring that the benefits of these initiatives are maximised for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank three valued members of the Committee who concluded their service during the 2024/25 period: Joanna Wells, Chris Dunn, and Justyna Jochym. Each brought a distinct perspective and deep commitment to PLEC's mission, and their contributions have helped shape the success and integrity of our work. On behalf of the Committee, I extend our gratitude and best wishes for their future endeavours.

As always, our work is guided by the principles outlined in the PLEC Charter, and we continue to uphold transparency, accountability, and value for public investment. I extend my thanks to fellow Committee members for their expertise and dedication, and to the Office of the Technical Regulator for its ongoing support in administering PLEC.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on identifying opportunities where undergrounding can deliver the greatest community benefit, and we encourage councils to bring forward proposals that align with these goals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Steve Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail.

Steve Murray

Chairperson

Powerline Environment Committee

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Overview: about the Powerline Environment Committee

Our strategic focus

The Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) is a committee assisting the Minister responsible for the *Electricity Act 1996* (*the Act*) in assessing and recommending the undergrounding of overhead power lines.

The PLEC undertakes such consultations, and seeks such proposals and submissions, as are required to be undertaken and sought by the Minister for the purposes of the Act.

In addition, the Committee is responsible for monitoring the progress and costs of undergrounding work which is undertaken pursuant to such programs.

The purpose of undergrounding work that is the subject of these programs is to improve the aesthetics of an area for the benefit of the general community having regard to road safety and other criteria.

Our Minister: The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP



Tom has been the Member of Parliament for the seat of West Torrens since 1997 and is currently Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining and the Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly.

Tom previously held ministerial appointments for Transport and Infrastructure between 2013 and 2014 and Mineral Resources and Energy between 2011 and 2018. He was also responsible for these portfolios in the Shadow Ministry between 2018 and 2022.

Our Committee

In accordance with its charter the Committee has eight members, with one member representing the interests of each of the following:

- Department of Environment and Heritage (or its equivalent)
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport (or its equivalent)
- Tourism interests
- The Local Government Association of South Australia
- Conservation interests
- Holders of licenses under the Electricity Act which authorise the operation of networks (Network Licensees)

- Two community representatives

As of 30 June 2025, the Powerline Environment Committee consisted of the following members:

- Chairperson and community representative: Mr. Steve Murray
- Community representative: The Hon Michael Atkinson
- Department for Infrastructure & Transport representative: Ms Teresa Xavier
- Local Government representative: Mr. Mark Hannan
- Department for Environment & Water representative: Ms De'Anne Smith
- SA Power Networks: Mr Charles Donovan
- Conservation representative: Ms Joanne Hendrikx

The position of the tourism representative was vacant as of 30 June 2025.

The agency's performance

Performance at a glance

In the financial year 2024 – 25 there were 4,650 metres of overhead powerlines relocated underground.

The committee met on nine occasions throughout the year to consider several proposals, resulting in two submissions for undergrounding projects in future periods.

Agency specific objectives and performance

Key performance indicators for the Powerline Environment Committee consist of the following activities:

- The undergrounding work which has been commenced in the financial year; and
- The undergrounding work that has been completed in the financial year; and
- Costs incurred in undertaking undergrounding work; and
- Details of the contribution to that cost by each council, by SA Power Networks and other bodies that contributed to the cost.

The following sections of this report provide more detailed information on these indicators.

Work that commenced in the financial year 2024-25

- Blackwood, Young Street
- Brompton, Chief Street Stage 1B
- Brompton, Chief Street Stage 2
- Echunga, Adelaide Road Stage 1
- Port Adelaide, St Vincent Street Stage 1A & 1B

Work that was completed in the financial year 2024-25

- Brompton, Chief Street Stage 1A & 1B
- Moonta Bay, Bay Road Stage 3
- Jamestown, Stage 1A
- Tea Tree Gully, Northeast Road Stage 1A & 1B
- Two Wells, Old Port Wakefield Road Stage 1B

Some minor rectification work was also commenced and completed in 2024-25 for a project at Margaret Street, Mt Gambier. The project had otherwise already been completed in 2023-24.

Costs and cost distribution between SAPN, councils and other organisations



SA Power Networks

Financial Statements prepared for the :

Powerline Environment Committee

Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
	\$	\$
<u>Revenue</u>		
Local Government Contributions	(3,461,007)	(1,882,431)
TOTAL INCOME	<u>(3,461,007)</u>	<u>(1,882,431)</u>
	2024-25	2023-24
	\$	\$
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Labour	1,855,605	882,280
Vehicles & Equipment	219,356	32,675
Materials	1,306,642	1,175,079
Contractors	6,214,313	7,115,010
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>9,595,916</u>	<u>9,205,044</u>
NET DEFICIT	<u>6,134,909</u>	<u>7,322,613</u>

Certification Statement

On behalf of the SA Power Networks, I hereby certify that :

The Financial Statements are a true and fair view of the financial position of the SA Power Networks PLEC Program

All Council contributions received were spent for the purposes of the PLEC Program in accordance with the Community Service Obligations Agreement and the Charter of the Powerline Environmental Committee.

Salaries and allowances paid to persons involved in the Project are in accordance with any applicable award or agreement in force under any relevant Law at the date of this Report, SA Power Networks is able to pay all its debts as and when they fall due.



Scott Gillen

Chief Financial Officer

Dated : 12/9/25

The above financial statement shows a total spending on PLEC projects in 2024-25 of \$9,595,916, with councils contributing \$3,461,007 and with SA Power Networks contributing \$6,134,909 towards projects.

For the purposes of section 58(A)(3) of the Act the prescribed amount for SA Power Networks to spend in 2024-25 was \$8,516,564.

The surplus occurred due to a noticeable reduction in Council applications for projects, presumably due to their economic operating environments with reduced budgets.

In addition to the above expenditure by SA Power Networks and councils, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport spent \$1.44 million in 2024-25 for activities related to PLEC projects such as installing new street lights.

Appendix 1: Completed Projects

Multiple projects were completed in 2024-25, in cooperation with councils undertaking streetscape upgrades.

North East Road Stage 1A & 1B, Tea Tree Gully (City of Tea Tree Gully)



Figures 1-6: Before and after, Tea Tree Gully

For the historical township of Tea Tree Gully, the PLEC project in 2024-25 has created a safer footpath free of obstacles. The undergrounding of the powerlines has enhanced the uninterrupted view of the Adelaide Hills, as visitors travel through or dine at the local amenities, and resulted in improved vegetation canopy cover.

Chief Street Stage 1A & 1B, Brompton (Charles Sturt Council)



Figures 7 – 12: Before and after, Brompton

Powerlines were undergrounded in 2024-25 along this popular street which connects Torrens Road and Port Road, greatly improving the aesthetics of Bowden Village. The removal of stobie poles allows for the inclusion of a dedicated bike path and the complete upgrade of pedestrian footpaths as part of the council’s strategic plan.

Bay Road Stage 3, Moonta (Copper Coast Council)



Figures 13 – 18: Before and after, Moonta

Bay Road has a total length of approx. three kilometres and connects the town of Moonta with the seaside township of Moonta Bay.

The undergrounding of powerlines for Stage 3 along the road and bike path in combination of the council’s new kerbing and road resurfacing has greatly transformed the area by improving the visual amenity.

Future stages for further PLEC projects are under consideration, with undergrounding of powerlines along the full length of the road within sight.

Ayr Street, Jamestown (Northern Areas Council)



Figure 19 – 24: Before and after, Jamestown

The PLEC work in 2024-25 has transformed the main street of Jamestown in the Mid North. The undergrounding program has removed safety issues for the heavy and long vehicles, while at the same time removing footpath obstructions and installation of new and improved road lighting.

Old Port Wakefield Road, Two Wells (Adelaide Plains Council)



Figure 25 – 30: Before and after, Two Wells

As a positive example of infrastructure resilience, the recent undergrounding of powerlines along the main street of Two Wells has significantly improved reliability and aesthetics for the community. This \$3.8 million project—delivered in partnership with the Adelaide Plains Council and the PLEC — has removed overhead lines and Stobie poles, replacing them with a modern underground network and heritage-style LED lighting.