

# Strathfield Cable Replacement Project

Frequently Asked Questions - September 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 an extensive program to retire fluid-filled cables across our network.

Below are some frequently asked questions 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 *How did you choose this preferred route?*

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

- minimising overall community and traffic impacts
- public health and safety;
- environmental and social impacts;
- traffic considerations;
- technical feasibility;
- available space around existing underground utility services; and
- cost for minimising impact on your electricity bills.

Ausgrid will aim to continue to refine the preferred route and will work with the community to minimise impacts as much as possible.

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

Ausgrid are working to proceed with a route that minimises the overall impact as much 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 liaised with relevant government agencies. Parramatta Road is a key arterial road meaning work would have to be completed at night. These restrictions, along with EPA noise restrictions which would limit noisy work to **a few** hours per night, would mean a significantly 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 is the preferred route along 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 understands that this work will cause disruptions to residents and as such is committed to minimizing these impacts as much as possible.

Ausgrid will keep residents informed ahead of impactful work with notifications and door knocks to allow residents to plan around our work if necessary.

We are currently completing community consultation with residents to help inform us on how we can minimise construction impacts.

#### 7 **What happens next?**

Using the community and stakeholder feedback on the preferred route received from Community Information Sessions, Ausgrid will work to implement any feasible changes.

We will continue to provide the community and our stakeholders with an update on the progress of the route design once 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.

You can also stay up to date on project updates via the project's website <https://www.ausgrid.com.au/In-your-community/Construction-projects/Strathfield-cable-project>.