



63 Mount Barker Road
Stirling SA 5152
Phone: 08 8408 0400
Fax: 08 8389 7440
mail@ahc.sa.gov.au
www.ahc.sa.gov.au

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Kris Funston
Executive General Manager
Australian Energy Regulator

Email: SAPN2025@aer.gov.au

Dear Kris

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on SA Power Networks (SAPN) Regulatory Proposal 2025-30.

Several of the investments proposed by SAPN as part of their Regulatory Proposal 2025-30 relate to improving the reliability, resilience and bushfire safety of the power network. These investments can positively impact the community of the Adelaide Hills Council. Accordingly, Council wishes to provide the following feedback on SAPN's Regulatory Proposal 2025-30.

Adelaide Hills Council supports SAPN investments that improve the safety and reliability of electricity infrastructure including initiatives that minimise the potential for bushfires to be started from power infrastructure under their care and control. Investment by SAPN in their 'bushfire risk management' program including the use of aerial bundled cables and feeder-level ultra-fast protection within the Mt Lofty Ranges is encouraged to reduce the risk of their assets starting bushfires.

Council acknowledges the conflicting demands of providing a reliable and consistent power supply as an essential service and the need to turn off the power supply to ensure power infrastructure does not lead to bushfires. Accordingly, Council supports the upgrading of network assets with remotely operated switchgear that reduces the number of customers impacted when power must be shutoff within the bushfire risk period.

Aside from bushfires, the Council district is susceptible to windstorms that do result in extensive damage to power infrastructure with resultant prolonged delays in returning supply to the community. Council is therefore supportive of initiatives or investment that results in quicker restoration of supply when outages do occur. When electricity supply cannot be restored in a timely manner, Council supports the proposal by SAPN for mobile generators to support impacted Adelaide Hills Council communities with a temporary power supply.

Council also encourages SAPN to explore innovation opportunities to partner with community groups in areas that may be particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, with a view to improving the resilience of the community to these events. In those cases where power consumers within the Adelaide Hills Council area receive consistently low reliability as compared to other parts of the region, Council supports initiatives that improve the reliability of poor performing feeders.

Finally, Council is conscious of cost pressures faced by the community and the need for consumers to have access to an affordable power supply. Council therefore strongly encourages SAPN to minimise costs to consumers and strike a balance between community cost of living pressures with investment in safety and reliability of power infrastructure.

Please note, to meet submission lodgement timeframes this submission has been produced by the Administration of Council and has not endorsed by the elected body of Council.

If you require any further information regarding Council's submission, please contact Council's Manager Sustainability, Waste and Emergency Management, Mr John McArthur, via email at

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Greg Georgopoulos
Chief Executive Officer