



17/07/2015

Mr Sebastian Roberts
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FILE No:

DOC:

MARS/PRISM:

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Ref No: 14.82.1.2



Dear Mr Roberts

RE: SA Power Networks – Revised Regulatory Proposal

It has to the attention of the District Council of Elliston that your organisation has made a preliminary decision to reject the recent SA Power Networks (SAPN) proposal in regards to a reliability improvement program for the areas of Hawker and Elliston. This determination disadvantages many of Council's remote rural people who rely on receiving a supply of adequate and quality power via a feeder line from the Polda substation.

This raises the ongoing question of why should SAPN customers in the remote Elliston area be significantly disadvantaged and receive a poorer service with greater risks attached compared to metropolitan and other regional areas of the state.

Council has been advised that:-

- The average annual SAIDI for Elliston has been 1,512 minutes compared to the current target in the Electricity Distribution Code for its geographical area of 425 minutes.
- SAPN low reliability feeders program has been specifically developed to improve performance of the low reliability feeders (including Elliston) and remove them from the 'Low reliability feeder' list. The SAPN project addresses some parts of the poor reliability performance currently being experienced within Elliston.
- The Elliston and Hawker program was developed as a direct result of customers' concerns raised in the SAPN community engagement program workshops which were held in regional locations. The workshops reaffirmed a requirement for a reliable supply of power comparable to other townships within the region. SAPN customers and stakeholders expressed support for further protecting some parts of the network which are susceptible to damage from storms, especially lightning strikes and a more robust network.
- The SAPN program aims to reduce average recorded SAIDI for both communities by at least 400 minutes per annum.
- SAPN state that a positive net present value in their submission indicates that the value to its customers is greater than the cost of the improvements and therefore would be in the long term interests of customers.

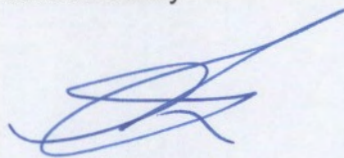
The District Council of Elliston over a period of some years has been lobbying for improvements to the electricity supply to the Elliston Township. Issues have in the past included voltages well below the 240 volt standard and power spikes, which becomes more of a problem during the summer period especially for businesses. The population of Elliston increases dramatically from a large influx of tourists during this period which puts extra pressure on the SAPN supply network. The occurrences of storms and lightning strikes during the summer months also makes the supply unreliable and prone to outages.

There are many risks to the Elliston community which are increased during extreme weather events including power outages, heatwaves and bushfires. Many people rely on a reliable source of power to receive updates during a bushfire event. The mobile phone coverage within the Elliston area is very poor, therefore people need to rely on their radios, television sets and internet services to receive timely updates from the SA Country Fire Service. If there is a power outage during this period then the associated risks to the Elliston community are greatly increased. All stakeholders have a duty of care for their community members.

In summary the District Council of Elliston encourages you to reconsider your previous decision to reject the SAPN proposal to implement improvements to the Elliston and Hawker areas. A positive result to implement the SAPN project will see a great reduction of identified risks to the Elliston area especially during extreme weather events. This is a question of whether the Elliston and Hawker communities should be provided with a service that is substandard when compared with metropolitan and other regional centres.

If you require any additional information, then please contact Mr Phil Cameron, Council's Chief Executive Officer, on 8687 9177.

Yours sincerely



Kym Callaghan
Chairman District Council of Elliston