

Energy WA

Electricity Networks

Electricity Networks

Western Australia's electricity networks include the South West Interconnected System, North West Interconnected System, Esperance System, and Electricity Supply Authorities supplying some regional towns. The [electricity infrastructure map](#) shows the locations of these networks and supply authorities.

The Office of Energy provides advice on policy aspects and legislation relevant to Western Australia's electricity networks.

The Government is implementing an integrated strategy to improve the safety, reliability and quality of power supply to Western Australian electricity customers who depend on transmission and distribution networks operated by Western Power and Horizon Power.

The recently completed electricity industry reform has resulted in:

- the creation of the new Western Power as a stand alone networks business to provide a greater focus on networks investment and service standards in the South West Interconnected System, and Horizon Power dedicated solely to the needs of rural electricity customers;
- the implementation of new regulatory measures applying to interconnected networks, including an Electricity Networks Access Code, and a Reliability and Quality of Supply Code; and
- the establishment of a new Customer Protection framework, including an Energy Ombudsman, and a Code of Conduct for supplying small use customers, aimed at delivering better customer service to residential and small business electricity users.

Western Power Corporation has been restructured into four separate Government owned corporations. For the South West Interconnected System there are three companies, each responsible for a different function in the supply of electricity to customers:



Generation



Transmission/Distribution



Retail

For areas outside the South West Interconnected System, Horizon Power is responsible for generation, transmission/distribution and retail of electricity. Having a separate corporation solely responsible for electricity supply in regional areas is intended to deliver improved service delivery.



Last Updated: 15 August 2006



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In 2005, the Government announced that \$2.23 billion would be spent on improving the network over the next four years. Expenditure on the network includes:

- replacing wooden poles with steel poles;
- targeting the least reliable power lines through the Blackspot Program;
- identifying and replacing overloaded distribution transformers;
- a comprehensive bushfire management program; and
- improved network maintenance.

Additional expenditure of \$60 million has also been targeted at improving rural network reliability through the Rural Power Improvement Program. Program works will improve network reliability through upgrade of selected distribution lines and also reduce the duration of outages and the number of customers affected by each fault. The Rural Power Improvement Program is expected to provide measurable improvements to more than 43,000 rural customers.

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