

Energy WA

Underground Power Program

Evaluation and Selection of Round Four Projects

The selection criteria and evaluation methodology for Round Four Major Residential Projects are described in more detail in the Round Four Guidelines, which are publicly available on the Office of Energy website: www.energy.wa.gov.au

The Office of Energy received a record response from local governments across the State interested in participating in the Program, with 89 proposals submitted by 21 local governments. This resulted in a fiercely competitive selection process for only a limited number of projects.

In line with the Guidelines for Round Four, all proposals were assessed in two stages:

Stage 1

Firstly, the electricity network in the areas nominated by local governments was assessed in terms of its relative priority in terms of network reliability and performance. This means that local government proposals needed to identify areas in which the installation of underground power would significantly improve the reliability of the electricity supply to consumers.

Western Power assessed network reliability by using a three-year rolling average of the System Average Interruption Duration Index for the areas. Proposals were also scored and ranked against power quality, network growth requirements and network characteristics; providing an indication of current and future network performance.

It should be noted that those proposals that proved to be uncompetitive at this stage were not considered further.

Stage 2

Secondly, those proposals that demonstrated that there would be significant reliability benefits from installing underground power were assessed in terms of project feasibility.

Starting from the top of the list of proposals ranked as a result of Stage 1, proposals were evaluated by examining the characteristics of the nominated areas, identifying the likely cost of underground power and other aspects of the proposals (i.e. rocky terrain, hills, number and size of lots) that can impact on the technical feasibility and cost of the projects. The likely level of community support within project areas was also considered.

Compiling the Shortlist

The Underground Power Steering Committee comprising senior representatives from the Office of Energy, Western Power and the Western Australian Local Government Association, considered all proposals that did meet the reliability and project feasibility requirements for possible inclusion on the Round Four shortlist.

Those proposals that were highly competitive and feasible were shortlisted to progress to the Detailed Proposals Stage for Round Four. As with previous Rounds of the Program, there was a preference to shortlist the highest priority projects within local government areas. For the first time the reserve list of projects provides the potential for more than one project to be undertaken within a local government area, if necessary (i.e. if a shortlisted project does not proceed as scheduled in Round Four).

The Office of Energy will be conducting debriefing sessions with interested local governments during early April, providing feedback on their proposals.

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