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\$1.2 million boost to support growth in Garfield, Warragul

SP AusNet invests in electricity infrastructure

Gippsland's electricity distributor, SP AusNet, will invest \$1.2 million between May and July to upgrade infrastructure servicing the Warragul, Garfield and Drouin areas.

SP AusNet spokesperson Natasha Whalley said the upgrades would allow for the expected continued growth in demand for electricity as a result of additional housing and industry in the area.

"Our crews will be upgrading the high voltage powerline between Warragul and Longwarry, a project that will involve replacing the existing powerpoles and powerlines over a distance of 17 kilometres," Ms Whalley said.

"In the past three years there has been an 11 per cent increase in demand for electricity in the area, which is strong and consistent growth.

"Upgrades are regularly required to meet this type of growth, and are essential to efficiently manage the electricity network," she said.

While SP AusNet is seeking to limit the inconvenience to its customers, it will be necessary to interrupt power supply to some properties in the area throughout the duration of the project.

Any residents whose power supply will be interrupted will be advised in writing by SP AusNet well ahead of any planned work.

Ms Whalley said SP AusNet would be using specialised construction techniques and generators where possible to minimise the number of power outages required.

"We understand it's never a good time to be without power, but these upgrade works will ensure customers experience fewer unplanned power outages in the future," she said.

"SP AusNet would like to thank customers for their patience and understanding while we carry out this work," Ms Whalley said.

A total of nineteen outages will be required throughout the project. Where possible, interruptions to power supply have been scheduled at times and days when the least amount of disruption will be caused, for example, planned interruptions for Drouin township have been scheduled for Sundays.

Residents in the vicinity of our crews can expect some minor traffic disruptions and partial road closures, these are measures put in place to assist in maintaining the highest possible level of safety for our crews and residents.

For more information about the upgrade works, customers may contact SP AusNet's Customer Service Centre on 1300 360 795.

For Media Enquiries please contact Natasha Whalley
Phone: 03 9625 0199