

17 December 2019

Australian Energy Regulator  
GPO Box 520  
Melbourne Vic 3001  
Via Email: [SAPN2020@aer.gov.au](mailto:SAPN2020@aer.gov.au)

To Whom it May Concern

**RE: District Council of Streaky Bay – Response to AER Draft Decision**

This letter is meant as a submission to the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) draft determination on AP Power Networks' 2020-2025 revenue and a letter received by the District Council of Streaky Bay (Council) on 2 December 2019 from SA Power Networks on the matter.

SA Power Networks' (SAPN) letter requested Council support for their 'harden the network' program and their 'Low Reliability Feeder Program'. The latter SAPN indicated would directly benefit 468 customers within our District (this equates to 21% of our population base). The letter further indicates that the two programs combined would cost average residential customers \$0.80c per year across all SAPN customers (letter enclosed).

The District Council of Streaky Bay (Council) is extremely supportive of the implementation of a more reliable electricity supply, especially to those communities subject to Single-wire Earth Return (SWER) lines. Electricity access through SWER lines is notoriously unreliable to the point of dangerous for those subject to the ineffectiveness of these, the oldest parts of the network. SWER lines mean that those in the most remote areas of South Australia are subject to regular power outages, far more frequent and longer than experienced anywhere else within the network. It is clear that SWER lines installed in the 1950s and 60s, though no doubt a positive result for their time, are no longer coping with the electricity needs of these remote and isolated communities.

It is agreed SWER lines should have been replaced as a priority a very long time ago, but Council cannot support charging those on these lines more for their electricity without fully understanding the projects on offer and *how* they are to benefit those communities. We therefore support the AER decision that upgrades should not be approved until further information is forthcoming, including real engagement with these communities. I am completely unaware of SAPN consultation with any of the 468 people in the District of Streaky Bay who would be directly affected by this decision.

At this stage, Council is aware of small communities such as Sceale Bay taking matters into their own hands and looking to projects such as Peer to Peer Solar. Responses such as these come because the delivery of electricity by SA Power Networks through SWER lines is dreadfully and shamefully unreliable and very costly.

Council is actively supporting Sceale Bay in their effort to develop an 'off-grid' solution and is again therefore involved in a matter not within the remit of local government.

Should you require further information please contact me on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Karina Ewer MBA, MCMR, MAHRI  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Enc

CC: Mr Doug Schmidt, General Manager, Regulation, SA Power Networks  
[REDACTED]