



The Flinders Ranges Council

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MELBOURNE

24 JUL 2015

Mr Sebastian Roberts
General Manager – Networks Branch
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 520
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Roberts,

Re: Reliability of electricity in Hawker, South Australia

I write on behalf of The Flinders Ranges Council regarding SA Power Networks' (SAPN) Revised Regulatory Proposal, specifically its plans to upgrade the electricity network supplying the Flinders Ranges town of Hawker.

Council was disappointed the Regulator rejected the plans in SAPN's Regulatory Proposal, submitted in October 2014, to improve electricity supply to the township of Hawker. Hawker has experienced many lengthy and debilitating power outages in recent years, where it can take many hours, sometimes even days, for power to be restored. This is exacerbated during storm events, when floods prevent SAPN crews accessing their infrastructure. Clearly this has a huge impact on the town of Hawker affecting residents, businesses and tourists alike.

Hawker's main economic driver is tourism, with more than 500,000 (SATC statistic) tourists a year visiting the Flinders Ranges, most of who stay or pass through Hawker. Tourists have an expectation that essential services such as electricity will be reliably provided, and it reflects poorly on Australia, South Australia and the Flinders Ranges when Hawker experiences unnecessary, long power outages.

Council appreciated that SA Power Networks consulted with members of the local community in developing its plans to upgrade the local network and were hopeful these proposed initiatives would finally improve the reliability of the power supply in the region.

Improved electricity reliability is critical for Hawker to maintain essential services, schools and hospitals that the local residents rely on. Just as importantly, it is also critical to the many businesses that support the large numbers of tourists that stay or pass through. Power to supply fuel in this outback town is particularly critical as service stations are few and far between in the outback.

I am aware that SAPN is resubmitting in its Revised Proposal its plans to upgrade the power lines supplying Hawker to better protect them against storms and other failures. I understand this will improve the reliability in the township and surrounds.

All Correspondence to be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer

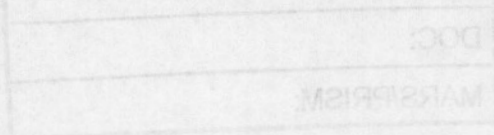
The Flinders Ranges Council fully supports these plans for the reasons outlined above and urges the Regulator to consider them as a necessary investment.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards



Colin Davies
Chief Executive Officer



For: Flinders Ranges Council

The Flinders Ranges Council supports the proposed investment in the Flinders Ranges power network, which will provide a secure and reliable supply of electricity to the region.

The proposed investment in the Flinders Ranges power network is a necessary and timely investment that will provide a secure and reliable supply of electricity to the region. The investment will also provide a number of other benefits, including the creation of jobs and the stimulation of the local economy.

The Flinders Ranges Council is pleased to support the proposed investment in the Flinders Ranges power network. We believe that this investment is a necessary and timely investment that will provide a secure and reliable supply of electricity to the region.

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