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SA POWER NETWORKS 2020-25 REVISED PROPOSAL – RELIABILITY EXPENDITURE

Council understands that SA Power Networks has recently submitted its revised 2020-25 Regulatory Proposal to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) for consideration and wishes to convey Council's support of two reliability programs that have been proposed that would significantly improve the reliability of power supply in the Port Pirie Regional Council area, these being:

- Approximately \$15 million to finalise their 'Harden the Network' program, which has been ongoing since 2015. Once completed, this program will have reduced the length of outages by two hours each year for around 50,000 customers in SA whose power is regularly impacted by lightning and storms. This Hardening the Network Program will benefit 794 customers in the Port Pirie Regional Council area.
- Approximately \$15 million to improve reliability of poor performing power lines, reducing total average outage times by three hours per year for approximately 16,000 customers across SA who experience much worse reliability than 'the average' customer experiences.

These two programs would add approximately \$0.80c per year to the average residential customer's electricity bill across all SA Power Networks customers. The benefit to customers would well outweigh this negligible cost.

The programs will target several lines in our Council area and given the extreme weather events in 2016/17 that resulted in significant network outages and loss of supply to our residents we strongly encourage the AER to reconsider its position on these 'reliability' programs that will result in the reduction of power outages and significantly improve power supply reliability and safety, particularly during severe weather events.

If you require any further information or details in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely


Grant McKenzie
A/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER