



# Rebekha Sharkie MP

Federal Member for Mayo



Our Ref: RS73686

Mr Warwick Anderson  
General Manager  
Australian Energy Regulator  
GPO Box 520  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Anderson

## SA POWER NETWORKS - DETERMINATION 2020-25

I write in relation to the proposed upgrades to the South Australian energy infrastructure as set out in the SA Power Networks ('SAPN') Determination 2020-2025 ('the Determination'). I understand the proposal is currently under consideration and a decision by the Regulator is imminent.

I wish to take the opportunity to express my support for the measures contained in the proposal which will likely lead to improved outcomes, and greater reliability, for those customers living outside of metropolitan Adelaide.

Notwithstanding the technological advances being made, many of my constituents must still contend with intermittent power supply and lengthy unexplained outages. While for some this may be merely inconvenient, for the elderly or vulnerable it can have a significant impact on their health and wellbeing.

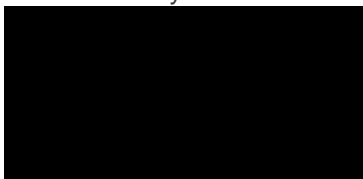
For example, Mr Lothar Kolze and his family are anxiously awaiting the AER's decision with respect to the Determination. In recent years Mr Kolze and his family have experienced regular and prolonged power supply interruptions. While Mr Kolze has a generator to facilitate a back-up electricity supply this is manually operated and accordingly there is still disruption to the family. Furthermore, Mr Kolze's partner and elderly mother are unable to operate the generator when Mr Kolze is not present. The regularity of these outages has caused Mr Kolze and his family much frustration over the past few years with several outages lasting over 12 hours.

I have been advised by SAPN Chief Executive Officer, Mr Robert Stobbe, that this is partly due to repeat outages of the distribution feeder line caused by vegetation but that if SAPN were able to underground part of the feeder line this should reduce the frequency of outages.

I am further advised that this project forms part of the proposal contained in the Determination submitted to the AER by SAPN.

It is not acceptable that there are vulnerable members of the community who are forced to live without a reliable supply of power. The SAPN Determination, and the proposals contained therein, provide an opportunity to significantly improve the day to day life of families like the Kolze's and I kindly ask that this be your primary consideration in your decision-making process.

Yours sincerely



**REBEKHA SHARKIE MP**  
Federal Member for Mayo

17 April 2020