

CMA:HH
File:14.36.11 Xref:IEM36726

24 July 2015

Mr S Roberts
General Manager – Networks Branch
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 520
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
via email [SAelectricity2015@aer.gov.au](mailto:SAelectricity2015@ aer.gov.au)

Dear Mr Roberts

SA Power Networks Regulatory Proposal

On behalf of the community within the Wakefield Regional Council, I submit to you the need for upgrading the feeder network within this Council area to assist our farming community in their operations and day to day life.

I understand that the Wakefield Regional Council has four of the 24 worst performing feeders in the State and there are significant outages across these four lines. When I look at the outage times for these four lines, it is almost 100 times the average outage for the region. Such outages makes it extremely difficult for our rural community to undertake their business.

Our community expects to be able to manage their businesses and daily lives with the certainty that electricity is not going to be disrupted for extended periods of time. Such performance as demonstrated by these four feeder lines undermines this expectation. Our community further expects the maintenance on power lines to be of a high standard in order to ensure reliability. It is understood these lines need to be remediated and as such, additional funding is required for this work to proceed.

Council seeks your commitment to ensure the community is not disadvantaged through a lack of focus on maintenance and upgrade. Already regional communities are disadvantaged across a wide range of services with limited or no access to public transport, choice in education, health services and allied health, retail choice, recreation and entertainment. To also suffer from significant unreliability in their electricity network is disappointing and unacceptable.

We request the Energy Regulator reviews is prior decision in respect to funding, and ensures sufficient funds are available to undertake the necessary upgrade and/or maintenance work to bring these 4 feeder lines into an acceptable average outage limit.

Yours faithfully



Cate Atkinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER