



# SHIRE UPDATE

August 2011



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Regional Development and Lands



ROYALTIES  
FOR REGIONS



PILBARACITIES  
DEVELOPING THE FUTURE

## WHAT IS THE PILBARA UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT?

This Pilbara Underground Power Project is a partnership between the Government of Western Australia and Local Government Authorities, including the Shire of Roebourne. The project, delivered by Horizon Power, aims to provide cyclone-affected North West towns with a safe and reliable power supply, by replacing ageing overhead electricity infrastructure with underground networks. The project will dramatically improve safety and reduce the likelihood of power outages to essential services, residences and businesses during, and immediately following, adverse weather events.

In addition to the installation of underground power, O'Donnell Griffin will also undertake a distribution voltage upgrade to provide increased power capacity.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

This project, due for completion in Karratha in 2012, is particularly important in the context of the recent tornado, which caused significant damage to the town's existing overhead power network, requiring Horizon Power to work tirelessly to restore electricity supply to residences and businesses.

## HOW WE'RE HELPING

The Shire of Roebourne is required to contribute approximately 25 percent of the project's costs for works incurred within Shire boundaries. This contribution is substantially lower than a number of other local government areas, as a significant proportion of costs are being met by the State Government through the Royalties for Regions Pilbara Cities initiative.

The Shire of Roebourne's contribution will be levied on most ratepayers in Karratha and some in Roebourne as part of the 2012/13 rates notice. Ratepayers that have already paid a contribution towards underground power as part of the purchase price for a lot will only be required to meet the cost of the voltage upgrade. Similarly, a resident owning a property where the connection to that property has been undergrounded will only contribute to the undergrounding of the overhead powerlines feeding that property.

Ratepayers unable to meet the initial one-off payment will be able to pay through regular installments over a period of up to, and including, four years. The cost to ratepayers is currently being calculated to ensure fairness and equity of contribution across the community.

O'Donnell Griffin, the contractor for the project, is currently progressing through the suburbs of Karratha with works in the first pilot cell of Bulgarra close to completion, well underway in the second pilot cell of Millars Well and having commenced in the Karratha Industrial Estate. As part of this process, O'Donnell Griffin may contact you to assess your property to determine the nature and extent of works required to your underground power.

Information on the project is available at Horizon Power's website [www.horizonpower.com.au](http://www.horizonpower.com.au) or by calling (08) 9159 7250.

For information on the ratepayer contribution to the project please contact the Shire of Roebourne on (08) 9186 8555.



Powerhouse of the Pilbara