PILBARA UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT UPDATE

For a full FAQ visit
www.roebourne.wa.gov.au/pupp
What is the status of the project?

Following a few setbacks at the start of the project, the Pilbara Underground Power Project (PUPP) is now progressing well with roughly 60% of 7000 properties across Karratha and Roebourne now connected to underground power.

Historically the rollout of underground power required a 50% financial contribution from local governments, however with additional support from the State Government, a transition to underground power in the Pilbara only requires the Shire to contribute 25% of the overall cost of the project.

Underground power brings significant benefits including:

- greater reliability
- reduction of power surges and outages
- improved street lighting
- more attractive streetscaping and
- greater resilience during extreme weather conditions and cyclones.

With recent events like Cyclone Christine we’re reminded how quickly power can be cut to properties and how dependant we are on it.

Roughly 60% of 7000 properties across Karratha and Roebourne now connected to underground power

To raise that 25% contribution a PUPP service charge will be levied through the rates system to all those that benefit from the project including households and businesses in Karratha (CBD and LIA) and Roebourne. This is calculated based on the type of connection each property has and the load required to service that connection, plus a flat fee for each connection. Properties with underground power not provided by PUPP will not incur the flat connection fee.

While the overall costs of the project have increased slightly, the revised billing model indicates that the likely service charge for each connection has not changed significantly since indicative costs were calculated at the beginning of the project.

So what’s next?

In the coming weeks the Shire will be sending a letter to all affected ratepayers with further details of the project’s status and new billing model, including the payment options available. By the end of June ratepayers will receive a complete rundown of the service charge they are likely to incur in the coming rates cycle.