

Submission to the State Underground Power Programme Cost Benefit Study

Attention the Study Manager

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to submit these comments regarding this study, as a resident in Attadale, which is not presently scheduled for conversion to underground power.

Benefits of Underground Power

In addition to the stated benefits of higher reliability, lower system maintenance costs etc., there are these additional benefits: -

Reduction in power surges which are caused by lightning or power system faults, and which damage electronic equipment in homes. Computers, TV's, telephones and other electronic devices are damaged during each storm which involves lightning or power system surges. Such faults can be reduced by fitting surge divertors but not eliminated. The costs of such faults are borne either by home owners or insurance companies, not the power authority. These costs are real but difficult to quantify. My costs of such damage were \$1200 in one particular year.

Reduction in tree pruning costs beneath powerlines. These amount to around \$500 p.a. for my home, which is probably typical for this suburb.

Cost of Underground Power

The present method of allocating costs between Councils and the power authority is reasonable.

Alternatives

There are no feasible alternatives to the use of underground power. Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC) could be considered but is also as vulnerable to lightning and storm damage as are bare powerline. The only advantage of ABC is a reduction in tree pruning.

Benefits of Underground Power

These are the two most significant benefits: -

Improvement in the appearance of suburbs resulting from the removal of unsightly powerline and the presence of larger street trees.

Reduction in faults to the power distribution system and to home electrical equipment.

Negative Impacts of Underground Power

There are none. Damage by termites is never a problem with correctly designed and installed cabling.

Beneficiaries of Underground Power

Home Owners
Power Authorities
Insurance companies

Regards, Kenneth Clark