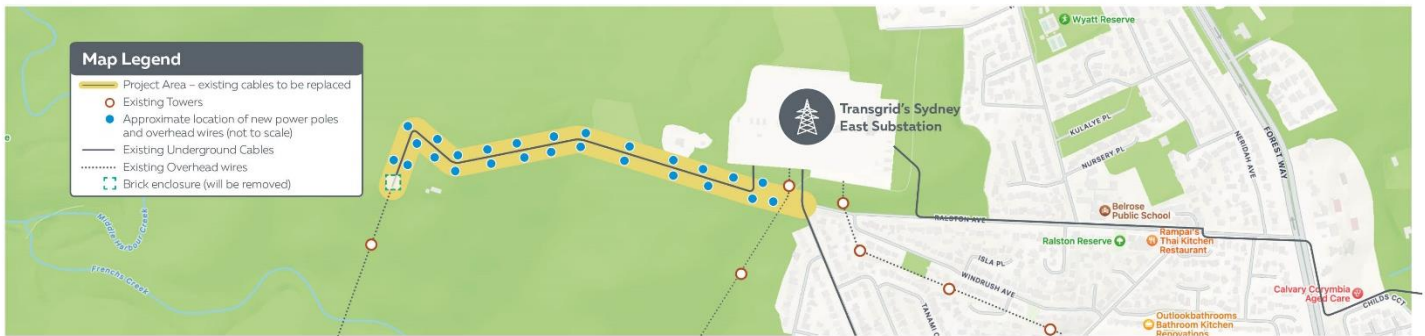


Belrose Cable Replacement Project

Frequently Asked Questions - November 2023



Frequently Asked Questions

Ausgrid is proposing to replace aging fluid filled 132kV underground cables with overhead wires along Ralston Avenue Belrose, between Transgrid's Sydney East substation and the Western Lookout.

The existing underground cables are nearing the end of their serviceable life and require replacement to ensure Ausgrid maintains a safe and reliable electricity network.

What is the planning approval process for a cable replacement project?

Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Ausgrid is the nominated determining authority for assessing and approving works for this project.

How did you choose this route?

The new installation will follow an existing route. We will be replacing underground cables with overhead poles and wires on both sides of Ralston Avenue, Belrose, between Transgrid's Substation and the Western Lookout.

What should I expect during construction?

As with any construction activity, there will be some impacts including noise and dust. Ausgrid will make every effort to keep this to a minimum and will finish the work as quickly as possible. There will be temporary access restrictions along the route during construction. We will make every effort to keep these to a minimum.

Construction will occur during standard daylight construction hours, following standard Ausgrid construction protocols. Should we need to do work outside standard construction hours due to network security requirements we will provide adequate notice to residents in the area to mitigate these impacts.

How will you minimize the impact to residents during construction?

Ausgrid understands that this work will cause minor disruptions to residents who walk along this pathway during the construction period. Ausgrid will keep residents informed ahead of impactful work with notifications to allow residents to plan around our work as necessary.

Will I be able to walk along Ralston Avenue towards the Western Lookout during the construction period?

We will try and keep a pathway open along the route, however if we are unable to, we will provide ample signage to advise the roadway is closed. There will be times when road closure is necessary during construction to ensure safety of those in the vicinity.

Have you consulted with the Northern Beaches Council about this project?

We have provided the council with details of the proposed works and we have responded to their questions. As the determining authority, Ausgrid is not required to gain approval from the Northern Beaches Council to commence works.

Have you consulted with the owners of the land, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC)?

We have met with the MLALC and provided details of the proposed works.

Are the poles and wires being installed to service future development in the area?

No. This project is to replace existing 132kV electricity infrastructure which provides supply to 48,000 customers via four zone substations at St Ives, Turramurra, Pymble and Lindfield. This project is to ensure that the existing electricity supply is maintained. It is a high voltage supply and therefore unsuitable to connect new residences or businesses. The capacity of this existing powerline is remaining the same.

Will there be power outages during these works?

There is no plan to interrupt supply while this work is being done.

Will any vegetation be removed along Ralston Avenue?

As part of our planning we have identified the area where our poles are proposed to be located. This is along both sides of Ralston Avenue where there is overgrown grass and shrubs. We are aware of a minimum of eleven trees along the route identified that may need to be removed. The detailed design and environmental assessment will identify any further impacts..

Will the project be near any aboriginal heritage sites?

As part of our planning process we have had the site reviewed for aboriginal heritage. There are no known sensitive aboriginal areas in this vicinity. We are working in an area of previously disturbed land due to the construction of the roadway and previously installed electricity cables.

Will residents along Ralston Avenue and Elm Avenue have traffic issues or delays during construction?

There will be temporary traffic movement with large vehicles and trucks accessing these roads to travel to the project site. We will have traffic management in place to mitigate these impacts.

Can the new poles and wires cause bushfires?

Ausgrid takes bushfires into account in the design, construction and maintenance of the transmission lines, as specified in the Energy Networks Australia ENA Doc 01-2019 National Electricity Network Safety Code (ENA 2019). This will include a range of ongoing inspections, vegetation clearance practices, fault protection systems and the use of concrete poles. Note: These two transmission lines already pass overhead through the same bushland along the existing steel towers from Lane Cove.

Will the proposed works and construction of poles and wires disturb the local fauna?

Ausgrid will be working in areas that have previously been disturbed.

Animals can use poles, substations, pits, buildings and other structures for nesting. We work with local wildlife organisations to relocate and rescue any animals impacted by our electricity network.

How many poles will be erected?

Approximately 25 poles will be erected in total on both sides of Ralston Avenue between the Western Lookout and the end of Ralston Avenue before Elm Avenue intersection.

Why are we replacing underground with overhead wires?

The existing underground cables are nearing the end of their serviceable life and require replacement to ensure Ausgrid maintains a safe and reliable electricity network.

The existing transmission lines are 6.5km in length with 5.5km of this already overhead lines. The project proposes to replace the 1km section of aged underground cables to become a modern overhead design, to match the rest of the line. The overhead design simplifies the installation and enables the removal of the brick enclosure at the Western lookout.

The installation of new poles and overhead wires will ensure a cost-efficient solution which will minimise the cost to customers.

What will be the visual impact of the poles & wires?

Please refer to the artist's impression imagery on the project's webpage.

The overhead poles will be visible along the pathway, just like the ones in your neighbourhood.

The design has considered reducing the impact of visual impact, (i.e. using slim modern poles instead of steel lattice towers similar to the rest of the line). The design has purposely been located in previously disturbed areas to minimise the impact on the local environment.

What colour will the concrete poles be? Can they be painted or decorated?

The concrete poles are proposed to be a muted green colour to blend in with the surroundings.

Will you see the poles from the Davidson side of the valley?

While the poles will be noticeable in some sections above the tree canopy along the route, the 3 existing overhead poles along Ralston Ave are not currently visible. The "apparent" height of a 20m high pole at 700m distance is 2cm, with some of this hidden behind the existing tree canopy. The brick building at the Western Lookout will be removed and replaced with two poles.

Our design has incorporated the use of slim poles (instead of steel lattice towers) to reduce the visual impact. 85% of this existing 132kV line which spans from Lane Cove to Belrose is already overhead and visible through this area.

What happens next?

We will provide continued updates as the project progresses through concept design; detailed design; when we award a contractor to carry out the work and when the project timeline has been finalised.



You can also stay up to date on the project via the project's website (follow QR code) or go to: <https://www.ausgrid.com.au/belrose>

Contacting us

You are welcome to contact us with any enquiries:

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