

Notice of Motion

Undergrounding Power lines and cables

Submitted by: Cr Vincent De Luca OAM

That this Council resolves to:

1. Note:
 - a. During and following the recent floods on the Northern Beaches and across the State thousands of residences have been without power for significant lengths of time occasioning great hardship and expense;
 - b. As far back as 2002 the NSW IPART conducted an Inquiry into Electricity Undergrounding in New South Wales, which highlighted the quantifiable and unquantifiable benefits of undergrounding powerlines and cables:
 - i. Avoided costs associated with motor vehicle accidents;
 - ii. Improved reliability of electricity supply;
 - iii. Avoided maintenance costs
 - iv. Reduction in lost revenue to Distribution Network Service Providers
 - v. Improved public amenity
 - vi. Improved environment
 - vii. Improved public and workplace safety
 - viii. New opportunities
 - ix. Reduced health risks
 - c. That the Federal Parliament's Inquiry in 1996/1997 found "In most Australian states, underground power delivery is compulsory in new, outer suburban subdivisions and this has had some impact in recent years. It is estimated that between 150 000 and 200 000 new homes are connected to underground power supplies each year throughout Australia, and over a number of decades this will result in a significant proportion of the national housing stock having underground connection".
 - d. The undergrounding of powerlines involved significant expense, further delay increases the cost.
 - e. The NSW IPART in 2002 concluded that in relation to funding "that a beneficiary pays approach is more appropriate, but that no single funding mechanism can ensure that all costs are set against the benefits in an equitable way and that market distortions are minimised... the Tribunal recommends a mixed approach, with funding coming mostly from local rates or levies and partly from state contributions and the Distribution Network Service".
2. Write to the NSW Minister for Energy, The Hon Matt Kean MP, the Minister for Planning, The Hon Dr Rob Stokes MP and Minister for Local Government, The Hon Shellie Hancock MP:
 - a. Calling for powerlines and cables to be undergrounded to improve reliability of electricity supply, public amenity, the environment, public and workplace safety, reduction in health risks and maintenance costs;

- b. Request an update as to what, if anything, their respective Departments are currently doing to effect the undergrounding of powerlines and cables now and into the future in New South Wales.