Friday, 13 March 2015

The Manager
Company Announcements
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir / Madam

FULL YEAR 2014 SECURITYHOLDER NEWSLETTER

I enclose the Spark Infrastructure newsletter that will be sent to securityholders today along with their distributions statements.

Yours faithfully,

Alexandra Finley
Company Secretary

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FY2014 NEWSLETTER

sparkinfrastructure

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

BRIAN SCULLIN

I am pleased to report that Spark Infrastructure has delivered another solid full year result for the year ended 31 December 2014. As always, our success depends upon the performance of the Asset Companies in which we hold a 49% interest, SA Power Networks, CitiPower and Powercor (together known as Victoria Power Networks), and our most recent investment, our 12.4% economic interest in DUET Group.

Dear Securityholder,

The performance of our investments has enabled your Directors to declare a final distribution of 5.75 cents per security (cps), in line with prior guidance, and to provide guidance for 2015 of 12.0 cps, subject to business conditions, which equates to 4.3% growth over 2014. With the end of the current regulatory periods fast approaching, it is not possible to give guidance beyond 2015 at this point. It is our goal to provide longer term guidance as soon as it is appropriate to do so, bearing in mind business conditions at the time and clarity around the outcomes of the impending Asset Companies' regulatory resets.

Our main focus is to continue to provide a growing distribution to securityholders over time and across regulatory periods. With Spark Infrastructure's distributions to securityholders more than 200% covered by Asset Company cashflows, and our own balance sheet in excellent shape, we are well placed to achieve this. Subject to achieving the distribution guidance for 2015, your distributions have grown at a compound annual rate of 4.7% since 2011 when we repositioned Spark Infrastructure for growth.

STRONG CASHFLOWS CONTINUE TO UNDERPIN GROWTH

SA Power Networks and Victoria Power Networks are both in the final year of their respective 5-year regulatory periods, which have been characterised by solid operating performance and Regulated Asset Base (RAB) growth, driven primarily through the efficient delivery of strong operating outcomes and Australian Energy Regulator (AER) approved capital expenditure.

Underpinning our strategy is the reliable stream of operating cashflows which the Asset Companies generate. It is an extraordinary achievement that they have been able to fund their own substantial growth, reduce their gearing as measured by net debt to RAB, and pay a growing distribution to their shareholders, including Spark Infrastructure. In turn, this has enabled Spark Infrastructure to continue to deliver a growing distribution to its securityholders, representing an investment that has an attractive yield plus strong asset growth.

FOCUS ON UPCOMING REGULATORY RESETS

Spark Infrastructure and the Asset Companies are firmly focussed on the next regulatory periods which commence on 1 July 2015 in the case of SA Power Networks, and on 1 January 2016 for CitiPower and Powercor. The upcoming regulatory resets will determine the level of growth in RAB for the next 5 years, and the rate of return to be earned.

SA Power Networks lodged its initial submissions with the AER in November 2014. These submissions put forward the business' cases in relation to operating and capital expenditure, the rate of return and other important elements of the regime to apply in the next 5-year regulatory periods.

SA Power Networks expects its Draft Decision at the end of April this year and the Final Decision is then scheduled for the end of October. CitiPower and Powercor will follow the same process, six months later. It is important to note that in the first year of their next regulatory periods the Asset Companies will operate under the AER's Draft Decisions, with a 'no disadvantage' true up to take place at the start of year two. This is due to the delay caused by the AER's 'Better Regulation Program'.

These regulatory reset processes are undoubtedly the 'main game' for our existing business over the next twelve months.

An important change to note is the move to a revenue cap for the basis of revenue recovery, which has been confirmed for every electricity distribution and transmission network under the AER's jurisdiction, including SA Power Networks and Victoria Power Networks. This will remove electricity distribution volume risk in the next regulatory periods and will therefore further increase revenue certainty.

NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As always, the passage of time brings new challenges, mainly in the form of changing technology and more active customers with evolving demand patterns. These issues are at the forefront of our thinking and planning for the future. We believe there is nobody better placed to build on existing strengths and to expand into new areas of change than Spark Infrastructure and the Asset Companies.

The next 12 months are likely to provide new challenges and opportunities to Spark Infrastructure, with the impending Asset Company regulatory resets; the investment in DUET Group, which currently stands at 12.4%, continuing to provide yield accretion and potential strategic options; and the possibility of partial privatisation of network assets in NSW as foreshadowed by the NSW Government, subject of course to the outcome of the election to be held later this month.

As always, we will remain alert to new opportunities to add value on behalf of securityholders. I look forward to updating you all again on Spark Infrastructure's progress later in 2015.

BRIAN SCULLIN
CHAIRMAN

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

RICK FRANCIS

Spark Infrastructure has again delivered another solid financial result, generating quality returns for securityholders from our high quality investments.

Dear Securityholder,
The Asset Companies continue to deliver well as they approach the end of their current 5-year regulatory periods. In 2014 they generated reliable, predictable cashflows, sufficiently strong to fund the equity portion of the capital expenditure of the businesses (i.e. we have not been required to inject any new equity into the businesses), to continue their program of reducing their leverage and to make growing distributions to their shareholders, including Spark Infrastructure.

This was the platform that enabled us to deliver an Underlying Profit before Loan Note Interest and Tax of $272.1 million, an increase of 24.1% on the prior year. Please note we made a change to the way we value customer contributions and gifted assets reported in the Asset Companies. This is a non-cash change and simplifies the reporting of these complex items. This meant that Underlying Net Profit after Tax was up 39.1% for the year to $128.1 million. Incorporating this change our Statutory Net Profit after tax was relatively steady year on year.

The Asset Companies strong performance has enabled the Directors to declare a final distribution of 5.75 cps which was paid on 13 March 2015. This distribution is in line with the previously provided distribution guidance of 11.5 cps for 2014, an increase of 4.5% on 2013. We understand the importance of reliable distributions to our securityholders, and accordingly the Directors have provided guidance for distributions of 12.0 cps in 2015, subject to business conditions.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARIES

Our strong profit performance was a result of higher equity accounted share of profits from the Asset Companies; net distributions and unrealised gains on the derivative contracts associated with the interest in DUET Group acquired in 2014 and lower interest expenses from the repayment of bank debt in prior years.

On the revenue front, the Asset Companies generated total regulated revenues of $1,878.9 million, up 6.8% on 2013, with aggregated Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) excluding customer contributions up 6.1% to $1,488.9 million.

The Regulated Asset Base (RAB) of the Asset Companies grew by 4.8% in 2014, taking the total RAB to $9.0 billion (Spark Infrastructure share $4.4 billion) by the close of the year. In aggregate, net debt to RAB (i.e. gearing) at the Asset Company level was 77.2% at 31 December 2014, down 1.3% versus the prior year.

SPARK INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	FY2014 ($M)	FY2013 ($M)	VARIANCE (%)
Total Underlying[1] income[2]	**288.8**	235.8	22.4
Underlying[1] Profit before Loan Note Interest and Tax	**272.1**	219.3	24.1
Underlying[1] Net Profit after Tax	**128.1**	92.1	39.1
Net Profit after Tax	**128.1**	128.4	(0.2)
Operating cashflows (standalone)	**206.9**	189.3	9.3
Cash received from Asset Companies (Spark's 49% share)			
SA Power Networks	**125.0**	122.5	2.0
CitiPower and Powercor (Victoria Power Networks)	**81.2**	80.7	0.6
Total	**206.3**	**203.2**	**1.5**

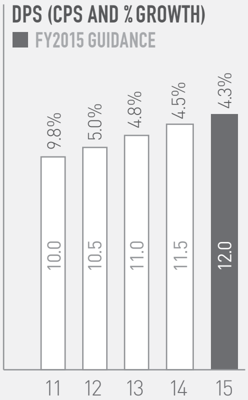
AGGREGATED ASSET COMPANY PERFORMANCE (100% BASIS)	FY2014 ($M)	FY2013 ($M)	VARIANCE (%)
Prescribed revenue, including			
– Distribution revenue	**1,763.5**	1,621.8	8.7
– Prescribed metering revenue (AMI)	**115.4**	138.0	(16.4)
Non-prescribed revenue	**335.9**	350.9	(4.3)
Total revenue (excluding customer contributions)[3]	**2,214.8**	**2,110.7**	**4.9**
EBITDA (excluding customer contributions)	**1,488.9**	**1,403.1**	**6.1**
Net Capital Expenditure	**869.8**	882.9	(1.5)
Net Debt to RAB (Asset Company level)	**77.2%**	78.5%	(1.3)

1. An underlying adjustment has been made to the 2013 comparative results to reflect changes made to the basis of estimating the fair value of customer contributions and gifted assets in 2014 effectively valuing them at nil. There are no underlying adjustments in 2014.
2. Includes interest income from associates, Spark Infrastructure's share of equity accounted profits, gains from derivative contracts and other income.
3. Aggregated revenue excludes transmission revenue, which is collected on behalf of others and does not contribute to profit. Non-prescribed business activities includes semi-regulated activities such as meter reading (SA Power Networks), public lighting and unregulated activities such as the provision of construction, maintenance and back office services to third parties.

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF DELIVERING

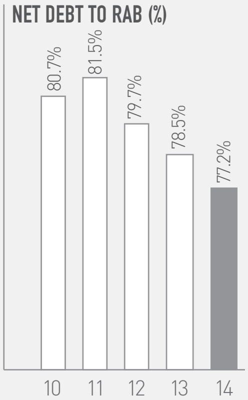
Spark Infrastructure has a proven track record of delivering on its investment proposition of distribution and capital growth. The Directors remain focused on steady growth in distributions over time and across regulatory periods and will continue to apply their characteristic financial discipline to all future investment decisions.

DPS (CPS AND % GROWTH)



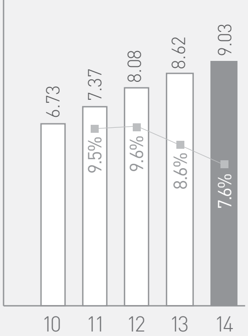
3–5% GROWTH P.A. TO 2015

NET DEBT TO RAB (%)



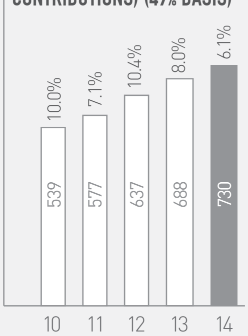
TARGETING 75% BY 2015 IN THE ASSET COMPANIES

GROWTH IN RAB – ROLLING CAGR[1] ($B AND %)



7–8% CAGR[1] TO 2015

ASSET COMPANY EBITDA ($M) (EXCL. CUSTOMER CONTRIBUTIONS) (49% BASIS)



1. Compound annual growth rate

INTEREST IN DUET GROUP

As detailed in our last newsletter, we acquired a 14.1% interest in DUET Group in May 2014. Following our decision not to adjust our derivative contracts to match our notional entitlement under the equity raise conducted by DUET last November, this interest now currently stands at 12.4%. As expected, this investment has been accretive to our cash flows in 2014.

Spark Infrastructure posted a gain of $24.9 million from its interest in DUET Group. This included a net cash distribution of $9.7 million, consisting of a cash distribution of $15.8 million minus financing costs of $6.1 million; and an unrealised gain on the derivative contracts, due to an increase in the security price of DUET Group, of $15.2 million.

We have subsequently received a second distribution of $16.3 million in mid-February, which will equate to expected distributions of around $32.5 million for 2015.

As we said last November, we have varied the terms of some of the derivative contracts, including extending the expiry date of the call options into 2015, resulting in no cash payments being made in 2014. We continue to actively manage the derivative contracts associated with our interest and provide updates to the market in accordance with our continuous disclosure obligations.

AER REPORT CONFIRMS ASSET COMPANIES AMONG THE MOST EFFICIENT IN AUSTRALIA

In November last year the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) issued its first Benchmarking report which ranks the efficiency of the 13 electricity distribution networks under its jurisdiction. This confirmed the ranking of SA Power Networks and Victoria Power Networks among the most efficient businesses of their kind in Australia. All three networks were ranked in the top five overall with CitiPower ranked first overall. The report also found that South Australia was the most efficient on a State by State comparison. SA Power Networks is of course the only electricity distributor in South Australia.

An important benefit of benchmarking well against their peers is the impact this should have on how the regulator assesses their regulatory proposals for the 2015–2020 regulatory period. The AER has consistently maintained that strongly performing businesses can look forward to a "light touch" regulatory approach, while the poor performers can expect more intrusive examination. With SA Power Networks expecting a Draft Decision from the AER for its next regulatory period at the end of April, we are looking forward to seeing how this plays out in practice.

FOCUS ON REGULATORY RESETS

SA Power Networks and Victoria Power Networks are firmly focussed on their respective regulatory reset processes which will establish the 5-year regulatory periods for SA Power Networks from 1 July 2015 and for Victoria Power Networks from 1 January 2016.

Our experienced regulatory and management teams continue to work constructively with the AER through this process and they are being superbly led by Rob Stobbe at SA Power Networks and Tim Rourke at Victoria Power Networks.

One thing we already know for certain is that the move to a revenue cap form of revenue recovery, which has been confirmed for all electricity network businesses regulated by the AER, will remove volume risk in the next regulatory periods and will therefore further increase revenue certainty for Spark Infrastructure.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND DISCIPLINE

Spark Infrastructure's approach to its investments is to apply rigorous financial and operational oversight to its portfolio of assets with a view to achieving long-term growth and profitability in a measured way. The emphasis is always on prudent financial management, efficient operations, a safe and engaged workforce and the effective management of every type of business risk. Spark Infrastructure also targets solid investment grade credit ratings for itself and its portfolio of assets.

We take the same disciplined approach to our assessment of any opportunities to further grow and diversify the asset portfolio.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Spark Infrastructure prioritises sustainable growth in distributions to securityholders over time. This commitment shapes the way we look at all matters of strategy and capital management. At the same time we are focussed on promoting continuous improvement in the Asset Companies' operational performance – in capital management, cost management, service planning, customer service and employee safety.

We also recognise that the business environment is changing. The impact of new technologies and evolving customer expectations require a considered response. We are up to that challenge and believe we are ideally placed to grow the businesses in new and exciting directions over the coming years. I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress in 2015 and beyond.

RICK FRANCIS
MANAGING DIRECTOR AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CORPORATE NEWS

SPARK WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS

In October 2014, Spark Infrastructure announced the appointment of Ms Christine McLoughlin and Ms Karen Penrose to the Board of Directors. The Board now comprises eight Directors including Chairman, Brian Scullin and MD and CEO, Rick Francis.

"Christine and Karen bring skills and experience of significant value to Spark Infrastructure as we enter a new period of potential growth and development," said Brian Scullin, Chairman of Spark Infrastructure.

Ms McLoughlin is an experienced company director with extensive experience in financial services, mining and resources, and telecommunications. She was the inaugural Chairman of The Australian Payments Council. Her current directorships include Whitehaven Coal Limited, nib Holdings Ltd and Suncorp Group. In her executive career, Ms McLoughlin worked in a number of countries including Australia, UK, Malaysia, China and Thailand. She has worked as a member of the CEO's Executive team at IAG and AMP Limited, and began her career as a corporate lawyer.

Ms Penrose brings strong experience in the business, finance and investment banking sectors. She is a non-executive Director with Novion Property Group, AWE Limited and was formerly a non-executive Director and Deputy Chair of Silver Chef Limited. She is also a Director of Landcom (operating as UrbanGrowth NSW) and Marshall Investments Pty Ltd. Ms Penrose's executive career includes 20 years in banking with Commonwealth Bank of Australia and HSBC. She most recently held the positions of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer with two ASX listed companies.

CHRISTINE McLOUGHLIN

KAREN PENROSE

NEWS FROM OUR BUSINESSES CITIPOWER AND POWERCOR

ASSESSMENT OF VEGETATION NEAR POWERLINES IN HIGH BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS IS CARRIED OUT FROM THE GROUND AND FROM THE AIR

VALUE FOR MONEY FOR CUSTOMERS

CitiPower and Powercor have recently proposed to adjust distribution network charges, which was approved by the AER and came into effect in January 2015. These tariffs are adjusted on an annual basis and the current charges are in line with what was approved by the AER at the beginning of the current 2011–2015 regulatory control period.

With the adjustments, the contribution of electricity distribution charges to a CitiPower customer's total electricity bill is 21 per cent, which is the lowest in Australia. Powercor's contributions to a customer's bill is only 27 per cent of the total amount they pay. Given other states and jurisdictions can charge as much as 50 per cent of a customer's total bill, this represents excellent value to CitiPower and Powercor customers.

PREPARATION IS THE KEY

While the summer season is now behind us, it's important to recognise the Asset Companies' long standing commitment to bushfire mitigation.

The businesses recognise the importance of annually preparing for bushfire season, which includes proactively reviewing ways to improve the safety of the community. For example, CitiPower and Powercor observes powerline conditions, assesses risk areas and checks vegetation near powerlines both on the ground and the air. The imaging equipment technology used to assess powerlines aerially continues to improve, and thus allows surveys to be conducted at a greater height, which means less noise to customers and is more cost-effective.

CitiPower and Powercor also ensures communications with customers are easily accessible through various mediums, including social media, to bring awareness and preparation to its customers. This year, the company provided a "Push Communications" tool, or SMS alerts, to more than 500,000 customers to easily communicate power outages. The alerts are distributed by zones, post code or suburbs through field teams, who can provide timely and regular updates. The feedback from customers has been overwhelmingly positive.

LIGHT THE WAY

Powercor, in partnership with the Australian Government, is installing more energy efficient LED lights to about 23,000 street lights, across 16 Victorian shires. The new lights will reduce energy consumption, provide energy savings of 77 per cent, and provide significant reductions in future operation and maintenance costs. Efficient street lighting creates safe, liveable communities and these LED lights are the latest generation in streetlight technology.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS RECOGNISED

In 2014, CitiPower and Powercor received the Award for Innovation at the annual Australian Business Awards in recognition for their world-first Meter Outage Notification (MON) system.

MON accesses the Advanced Metering Infrastructure or "Smart Meters" to notify CitiPower and Powercor of outages, which allows them to manage, identify and restore faults more quickly and effectively. In turn, this reduces costs to the customer and shortens the time they are without power.

CitiPower and Powercor deployed the new Smart Meter technology to over one million customers on time and within budget. The system allows for meters to be accessed remotely for readings, connection services, and service inspections due to outages. These remote services greatly reduce outage time, and remote meter reading means the reporting and billing is accurate – not estimated.

Building on the success of the best performing smart meter program in Victoria, CitiPower and Powercor have extended the functionality of the meters to include tamper alarms, enhanced outage management and better control of the electricity supply during peak and off-peak demand. Smart meters have been well-received according to customer satisfaction reports, and provides a cost savings to its customers and businesses.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

CitiPower and Powercor continually support the community through various sponsored events, award ceremonies and employee donations. This year, Powercor will be partnering with regional charities for the Tour de Depot: three cycling events which will be held in Warrnambool, Mildura and Shepparton. The three events will raise money for charities that have been chosen directly by the stakeholders.

CitiPower and Powercor also hold the Annual Business Excellence Awards. The awards are a significant event in local calendars, involving people from right across the community including retailers, manufacturers, service providers, farmers, local councils, and local business groups.

CitiPower and Powercor also give back to the community through their Annual Living our Values Awards. In 2014, they recognised 93 employees that demonstrated excellence in achieving company core values that focus on fellow employees, customers and other stakeholders. Six individuals and six teams were acknowledged and a CEO Award was given to a community depot. Winners of the awards had the opportunity to make a significant donation to charities close to their heart. This year $30,000 was donated to local, national and international charities selected by the winners.

"CitiPower and Powercor are proud to play a role in a variety of ways that support the community. The initiatives allow us to meet people that are leading the communities and form stronger relationships with our customers," said CEO Tim Rourke.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM RECEIVES TOP ACCOLADES

CitiPower and Powercor's Mental Health Program received the Minister's Award for Mental Health Employee Excellence last year at the Victorian Public Health Care Awards. Mental health in the workplace is an important focus for CitiPower and Powercor, which has developed a program around awareness, prevention and early intervention. This included improving the understanding and awareness of mental illness through an annual Mental Health Awareness week and forming a peer-to-peer support group, where trained employees volunteer their time to assist fellow colleagues.

The Minister's Award is the highest recognition in Victoria, and recognises the initiatives and achievements of CitiPower and Powercor to educate and break down barriers around mental health. In 2015, CitiPower and Powercor plan to expand the program by working with Beyond Blue to host sessions to its line managers about recognising signs and having constructive and positive conversations with team managers, and to develop a holistic wellbeing program.

POWERCOR PLACEMENT INTO THE US PRIVATE PLACEMENT MARKET

In September last year, Powercor reached an agreement with US investors to place US$300 million of bonds into the US Private Placement (USPP) market. As part of the transaction, cross currency swaps were executed to convert the US dollars to Australian dollars. The total proceeds raised equated to approximately A$339 million and were received in November 2014.

The funds will be used to refinance A$114 million of drawn debt on an existing bank debt facility, US$100 million in maturing USPP bonds and for working capital purposes. The bonds are split into two tranches: US$124 million (A$141 million) of 10 years and US$175 million (AUD$198 million) of 12 years. Powercor's next refinancing requirements arise in November 2015, while CitiPower has no refinancing requirements until February 2016.

"US investors continue to display a strong appetite to lend to quality regulated utilities. This was Powercor Australia's third placement into the USPP market following issuances in 2009 and 2011. It also follows previous issuances by CitiPower and SA Power Networks and demonstrates the underlying strengths of these businesses," said Rick Francis, Managing Director and CEO of Spark Infrastructure.

Image on top: **Supporting the community through sponsored events, award ceremonies and employee donations**. Middle: **New LED lighting will reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs**. Bottom: **CitiPower and Powercor receive Minister's Award for Mental Health Employee Excellence.**

For several years now, CitiPower has been behind the scenes to ensure the Australian Open at Melbourne's Margaret Court Arena has the electricity supply needed to support the annual tennis tournament. Inspections are conducted using thermo scan technology, and load checks are carried out on the equipment.

During the event, CitiPower monitors the precinct to ensure a reliable electricity supply. CitiPower has also laid underground cables and installed cable pits around the development. A new substation for the Melbourne Park administration building is also planned, and CitiPower will be working with the builder on the detail design, ensuring the iconic sporting event and Arena will be supported well into the future.

SA POWER NETWORKS

UPDATE ON THE 2015–2020 REGULATORY RESET

SA Power Networks has been thorough in maximising the service and performance of its network, while still maintaining the high levels of reliability and safety standards that customers expect. This is reflected in the most recent AER Benchmarking Report, which confirms SA Power Networks is the most efficient electricity distributor in Australia on a state-wide basis, and a national leader in network reliability – outperforming the National Electricity Average.

Since privatisation in 1999, SA Power Networks' effective and prudent operation of its business has resulted in its portion of the total residential bill decreasing from 49% to about 37%.

If accepted by the AER, SA Power Networks' recently lodged Regulatory Reset Proposal would result in a price cut in the first year of the new 5-year regulatory period, and increases of less than CPI in the years following.

SA Power Networks has proposed capital expenditure of $2.53 billion and is anticipating operating costs of $1.64 billion. A critical component of the capex proposal is the replacement of ageing assets, which totals $792 million with associated operating costs of $27 million. The majority of South Australia's electricity assets were installed in the 1950s to 1970s, and are now the oldest fleet of network assets in the country.

OUR ASSET COMPANIES CONTINUE TO PUT SAFETY FIRST. SA POWER NETWORKS HAS REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE, GOING 803 DAYS, OR OVER 2 YEARS, WITHOUT A SAFETY INCIDENT (LOST TIME INJURY – LTI) AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRINT.

Additionally, SA Power Networks needs to plan for augmentation of the network to meet capacity demands, and the proposal includes $345 million to address and meet customer demand.

Taking all of this into account, residential customers will see a slight increase of $14 per annum, which is less than 1% of the total bill.

The AER is expected to provide its response to SA Power Network's Proposal by the end of April.

SA POWER NETWORKS HAS RANKED FIRST IN AUSTRALIA'S TOP 75 GRADUATE EMPLOYERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE EMPLOYERS. THE 75 EMPLOYERS SELECTED ARE THE ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE THE MOST POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR NEW GRADUATES BASED ON THE OPINIONS OF GRADUATES THEMSELVES.

CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

The Regulatory Reset Proposal involved all stakeholders from the beginning. The company embarked on an 18-month customer engagement program, which involved over 13,000 customers through a series of workshops, public-hearings, meetings, surveys and the Talking Power education program and website.

These engagements were designed to better understand customer views, needs and concerns about the distribution network and services, and to integrate relevant feedback into the plans.

SA Power Networks is confident its Proposal for 2015–2020 will help it to continue to meet the regulated Service Standards and obligations while minimising the price impact on customers.

UPDATED STATE-OF-THE-ART RESEARCH AND STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION CENTRE

Recognising the changes within the electricity industry and with a view towards the future, SA Power Networks decided to expand and enhance its current research centre to focus on the impact of emerging technologies to customers and the company. Additionally, SA Power Networks wanted the centre to include demonstrations for stakeholder education purposes. The new facility was moved from Keswick to the Richmond Road location in Adelaide to provide additional space for testing and trialling of new tools, and was completed in July 2014.

The Network Innovation Centre comprises both network-side and consumer-side technologies including a distribution network, smart house displaying solar PV, smart metering and a home energy management system. In addition to researching the outcomes of using the various technologies, the demonstration area allows employees and stakeholders to better understand the future of electricity networks and SA Power Networks' involvement in meeting the needs of its customers.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Protocols for future vegetation management around powerlines is a key focus for SA Power Networks. Working with the Local Government Association (LGA), the company is seeking feedback from local Councils and interested stakeholders during the first quarter of 2015.

SA Power Networks has proposed vegetation management programs which are better tailored to suit regional differences and needs, including location and species-specific pruning programs. The protocol outlines the baseline programs for vegetation management for which funding is currently provided, and also for which funding is being sought.

The company is exploring new options and technologies to improve tree trimming outcomes. The aim is to make outcomes from trimming visually pleasing, and to balance the needs of the community with legislative requirements. The key drivers for managing vegetation near powerlines are to mitigate bushfire risk, ensure public safety, maintain reliability of electricity supply, and ensure legislative compliance.

MAKING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT VISUALLY PLEASING AND PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY, SERVICE RELIABILITY AND REDUCING BUSHFIRE RISK

NEW APP ALERTS CUSTOMERS TO POWER OUTAGES

SA Power Networks has made it even easier for customers to report and monitor power outages by introducing a new application or "app" for a wide range of smart phones and other mobile devices. Current interruptions information is now available to smart phone, tablet and computer users in a Google map format or by suburb/post code search. Customers can also report an outage or street light fault from these devices and register to receive notification of meter reading dates in their area.

The company has made a video to show customers how to load the app onto their phone and use it. The new system also recognises the type of device people are using and provides the best optimised experience for that device.

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