

Media Release



6 October 2016

New dates set for East Gippsland electricity network upgrade

AusNet Services has re-scheduled the proposed electricity shutdown affecting more than 6,600 customers across East Gippsland for Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November 2016.

The postponement from the original date of 15-16 October was necessary because of the unsafe ground conditions following recent rainfall across Gippsland.

More than 160 lineworkers will undertake a large-scale maintenance program on powerlines from Bairnsdale to Mallacoota between the hours of 8am to 5pm on each day.

The works program will be slightly different from the original plan. Customers in Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyers and Toorloo Arm will NOT be affected by interruptions to supply on 19th and 20th November.

AusNet Services will write directly to each affected customer to provide precise information about when their power supply will be interrupted.

As in previous years, the company is combining this pre-bushfire season maintenance – including the replacement of more than 60 powerpoles and 75 cross arms – into one weekend as a more customer-friendly alternative to multiple weekly shutdowns.

Tim Ryan, AusNet Services Customer and Support Manager in Gippsland, said that key stakeholders throughout East Gippsland have been contacted to explain the reasons for the work and to allow them to minimise the inconvenience to businesses and residents.

“We apologise for any inconvenience this date change may cause, but we need to get the work done after the ground dries out, and before both the fire season and the peak tourist season.

“Operating heavy machinery in excessively wet conditions poses significant safety risks to employees in the form of possible machinery slides and/or roll overs,” he said.

“Electricity supply will be restored overnight on Saturday evening to minimise the impact to residents and those that rely on tourism.

“We thank customers for their patience while we do this important work to further improve the safety and reliability of their electricity supply,” he said.

Ends.

For program details please see overleaf.

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Details of the maintenance program

Saturday 19 November

- Towns impacted: Bruthen, Ensay, Swifts Creek, Omeo, Nowa Nowa (east end), Buchan, Orbost, Cann River, Marlo, Bemm River, Genoa and Mallacoota.
- Duration: 8am – 5pm

Sunday 20 November

- Towns impacted: Nowa Nowa (east end), Buchan, Orbost, Cann River, Marlo, Bemm River, Genoa and Mallacoota.
- Duration: 8am – 5pm

Ends...