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\$1.2 million Garfield, Warragul upgrade complete

A \$1.2 million infrastructure upgrade to cater for continued growth in demand for electricity in the Warragul, Garfield and Drouin areas has now been completed.

Gippsland's electricity distributor SP AusNet, began the project in May 2010 to replace the high voltage powerline between Warragul and Longwarry, a distance of 17 kilometres, with final stages completed on Sunday 17 October.

SP AusNet spokesperson Joe Adamo said the upgrade, which consisted of replacing existing powerpoles and powerlines was a needed boost to support the continued growth in Garfield, Warragul and Drouin areas.

"As a result of additional housing and industry in the area this upgrade is essential to efficiently manage the electricity network.

"In the past three years there has been an 11 per cent increase in demand for electricity in this area, which is strong and consistent growth.

"This project was designed to allow for future growth and would reduce load on the electricity network on days of extreme heat," he said.

Replacement of the powerlines and powerpoles started in May and has involved a number of SP AusNet engineering, planning and construction crews as well as a number of safety provisions such as on-site traffic management and network planning to minimise the number of outages while the work was being carried out.

Mr Adamo said SP AusNet worked closely with the community to limit the inconvenience and disruption to customers throughout the duration of the project.

"SP AusNet would like to thank customers for their patience and understanding while we carried out this work," Mr Adamo said.

"We always try to minimise disruption to residents when carrying out planned works, and where possible interruptions to power supply were scheduled on days when the least amount of disruption was anticipated.

"These upgrade works will ensure customers experience fewer unplanned power outages in the future," he said.

SP AusNet is the electricity distributor for the outer eastern and outer northern metropolitan areas of Melbourne, as well as the eastern and northern parts of the state, supplying electricity to more than 650,000 residents and businesses.