



State Underground Power Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will fund the underground power project works?

The project is funded by the Office of Energy (up to 25%), Western Power (up to 25%) and City of Canning property owners in the project area (50%-100%).

What if I already have underground power in my property?

The cost to property owners has two elements being the network cost and the house service cost. The network cost is a contribution to the installation of the new underground street network and the house service cost is the cost to underground between your building and the street. Where connections are already wholly or partially underground this charge will be discounted according to the existing type of connection.

In the past the discounts have typically been; where only the domestic supply is underground from the overhead power pole in the street, then that resident did not need to pay for the domestic supply component, which has been a \$600 saving in the past. Where the street in a pocket area within the suburb area already has underground power then an 85% discount has been applied to those residents. The underground power in that street is fed from the surrounding overhead power that is to be placed underground. Will I have a choice between paying a lump sum or by instalments over ten years?

All ratepayers within the area that is to receive underground power make a contribution to the scheme. In the past Council has provided two options to allow those who cannot afford a lump sum payment the opportunity to pay by instalments with your annual rates over a 10 year period. The amount payable is the lump sum payment plus interest incurred on the low interest loan that Council takes out on behalf of the ratepayers. The loan amounts may be subject to change from time to time during the loan period based on State Government determination.

Can I change my payment method later on?

Ratepayers will not be able to change their elected payment method once the City has entered into a loan repayment program with the State Government.

Are the amounts different if I am an eligible Pensioner or Senior?

Property owners holding the following cards are entitled to the following concessions:

Australian Pensioner Concession Card - If you are the holder of an Australian pensioner concession card issued by either Centrelink or Veterans Affairs, and the owner and occupier of a property in the scheme you are entitled to a maximum concession of up to 50% subject to an annual capped amount set by the State Government.

Western Australian State Seniors Card - If you are the holder of a Western Australian State Seniors Card and are the owner and occupier of a property in the scheme you are entitled to a maximum concession of up to 25% subject to an annual capped amount set by the State Government for the first year of the scheme only.

Western Australian State Seniors Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card - If you are the holder of a Western Australian State Seniors Card and a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and are the owner and occupier of a property in the scheme you are entitled to a maximum concession of up to 50% subject to an annual capped amount set by the State Government.

Western Australian Seniors Card holders were not entitled to defer any underground power charges.

If you are receiving a rebate on your City of Canning Rates Notice, then your pensioner concession will automatically be applied to your Underground Power Charge.

Above all - Service

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Can I defer my Underground Power Charge?

Ratepayers who were eligible Pensioners on the 10 Year Instalment option were entitled to defer the payment of the Underground Power Charge in the same way they defer rates. The deferred amount was charged in full, no rebate was applied and was payable in full at the time the property was sold. Entitled seniors could not defer any rates or charges.

What happens if I become a Pensioner/Senior during the 10 Year Instalment Option?

Ratepayers who become eligible Pensioners or Senior's during the term of the Underground Power Scheme were entitled to a proportional rebate in the first year of application and then the full concession, subject to capping, in subsequent years. Ratepayers who choose to make a Lump Sum payment at the commencement of the Scheme and subsequently become Pensioners or seniors during the Scheme were not able to claim a concession.

What happens if I sell my property after the scheme has been approved by Western Power?

The owner at the commencement of the scheme is responsible for full payment of the remainder of charges irrespective of the settlement date. Underground power charges are not apportioned between the buyer and seller and the seller is required to pay the balance of charges at settlement.