

Media Release



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GREAT OCEAN ROAD UNDERGROUND POWER PROJECT MOVES A STEP CLOSER

A proposal to remove 40 power poles along a 3.5 kilometre stretch of the Great Ocean Road at Moggs Creek and Eastern View moved a step closer to reality following a recent meeting to discuss options to fund the \$4 million underground power project.

Elaine Carbines MLC chaired the meeting which was called by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and attended by a number of organisations and other parties interested in seeing the project happen.

According to Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's Executive Officer, Mr David Clarke, "The proposal to underground power is a fantastic opportunity to improve this iconic stretch of the Great Ocean Road".

2007 is the 75th anniversary of the official opening of the Great Ocean Road. The project site includes the world famous Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch at Eastern View which is a very popular stopping point for local and international visitors. A range of activities are planned to celebrate the 75th anniversary in 2007.

According to Mr Clarke "Removing the power poles will provide a fitting commemoration to those who worked so hard to construct the Great Ocean Road".

"The project will allow all those who love and visit the Great Ocean Road to enjoy an improved vista – free of the overhead clutter of approximately 40 power poles and power lines".

"The project will deliver a number of economic, environmental and social benefits", said Mr Clarke".

More than 2 million cars travel along this stretch of the Great Ocean Road each year.

"Removing the power poles will improve road safety" said Mr Clarke.

"It will also improve safety for hang gliders and para gliders who use the internationally recognised Spion Kope launching site. Underground power also is more reliable than overhead power, and reduces bushfire risk", said Mr Clarke.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is continuing its efforts to raise funds for the project. Applications will be made to state and federal governments, with contributions also likely from other organisations and interested parties.

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