

Powercor Armour Rod & Damper Retrofit Program

Client: Powercor Australia
Location: Western Victoria
Duration: February 2013 – December 2016

DESCRIPTION

In late 2012 Electrix was awarded a major contract by Powercor Network Services (PNS) to undertake the Armour Rod & Vibration Damper Retrofit Program across the Powercor electricity network in Western Victoria.

This important program of work was initiated to deliver key network safety improvements being implemented by Victoria's Distribution networks following the Bushfire Royal Commission which investigated the Black Saturday fires of early 2009.

To deliver the program Electrix assembled a field workforce of up to 60 highly qualified Glove & Barrier lineworkers supported by an experienced & energetic management team.

The award of this contract confirmed the strong relationship Electrix has sustained with Powercor Network Services and maintained our position as the single largest service provider to Powercor / CitiPower.

SCOPE

The contract initially involved retrofitting of additional line hardware at more than 150,000 locations over a 3 year contract term. Within this initial term Electrix successfully completed almost 170,000 sites. The contract was further extended until December 2016 to cover a total of 190,000 sites.

The work was undertaken on overhead power lines within High Bushfire Risk Areas across the Powercor rural network with the majority of work undertaken under "live line" conditions to minimise network outages.

Electrix also worked closely with PNS to identify opportunities to undertake additional maintenance activities on associated assets on a "one site visit" methodology which provides further network operational benefits.

VALUE TO CLIENT

Electrix has successfully provided a wide range of services on the Powercor network for over almost 20 years. This previous track record, combined with consistently delivering high standards of safety and quality and knowledge of the regional network were key factors in securing this contract. Major challenges faced by Electrix included:

- Rapid mobilisation of a large, specialist live line field resource;
- Collaboration with PNS for implementation of a project specific field mobility solution;
- Effective planning, scheduling and management of high work volumes across wide geographic areas to maximise field productivity;
- Maintaining safe work practices with strong focus on fatigue management and risks associated with travel and repetitive tasks;
- Managing access issues including work on private property and in cropped areas.

