

Monday 28 February, 2022

Partnership aims to deliver Australia's largest smart street lighting upgrade

Ausgrid, along with the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) and up to 33 local councils are set to partner to deliver what could be the largest and most advanced smart street lighting upgrade in Australia.

The partnership deal could see more than 92,000 streetlights upgraded with energy efficient LEDs and smart controls over the next three years.

The majority of the lights to be upgraded are on main roads across metro Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter with 25 councils having already agreed in principle to the deal.

The program adds smart controls to the lights on main roads to help detect faults, optimise maintenance, measure energy use and facilitate off-peak dimming in the future. The lights would also be able to accommodate future smart city sensors.

Ausgrid CEO, Richard Gross, said the upgrade will provide major energy savings which will significantly contribute towards Australia's net zero target.

"This project will deliver safer, more affordable, more reliable and more sustainable outcomes for our shared customers and community," Mr Gross said.

"Ausgrid has already upgraded around 130,000 residential streetlights to LEDs and expects to complete a further 20,000 in the next few months. Once the main road program is complete by 2024 almost a quarter of a million street lights will have been replaced.

"Councils can expect average energy savings of 56 per cent annually and total reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of more than 34,000 tCO₂-e per year from this latest Ausgrid proposal."

SSROC President and Burwood Mayor, Cr John Faker, said total costs for councils will reduce by around \$3 million per year thanks to the significant energy and maintenance savings.

“The new lights will deliver better quality lighting, make our roads safer, dramatically cut energy consumption and save our communities money,” Cr Faker said.

“If supported by councils, this deal will be a big win for councils, the community and the environment. It’s also another excellent example of what can be achieved when councils work together across the region.”

SSROC CEO, Helen Sloan, said the project will be a quantum shift in the lighting of main roads.

“We’ll be moving from lights that were developed in the middle of the last century to ones that are at the leading edge.” Ms Sloan said.

“These new lights provide better lighting with smart controls enabling even lower energy consumption, and ports for future Smart City sensors, to help councils to deliver community services.”

The global lighting industry has recently agreed on a common approach to how lights are to be built to accommodate smart city sensors which is called Zhaga.

The kinds of sensors that councils are showing interest in would deliver better traffic and pedestrian counts, monitor the environment for pollutants and detect high noise levels.

Dr Dee Denteneer, Secretary General of the international Zhaga Consortium, has praised the Ausgrid SSROC agreement.

“The scale of what is being proposed, across a major global city, is truly a landmark agreement. As many cities around the world are learning, LEDs with smart controls will make the city safer, and healthier at lower costs,” Dr Denteneer said.

“Taking a Zhaga-based approach to support additional sensors on every street light ensures that the benefits are lasting and future-proof.”

Ausgrid Media | Emma Shanks | 0408 740 476

The 29 councils participating in the SSROC Street Lighting Improvement Program are: Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Central Coast, Cessnock, City of Sydney, Cumberland, Georges River, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Ku-ring-gai, Lake Macquarie, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Port Stephens, Randwick, Ryde, Singleton, Strathfield, Sutherland, Upper Hunter, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra.

ABOUT AUSGRID

Ausgrid is the largest distributor of electricity on Australia’s east coast, providing power to 1.8 million customers. Its network is made up of substations, powerlines, underground cables

and power poles, spanning 22,275 square kilometres throughout Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter Valley. For more information see: www.ausgrid.com.au.

ABOUT SSROC

SSROC is an association of 11 Sydney councils serving large and diverse communities, working to address the challenges and fully utilise the opportunities of metropolitan living. The SSROC Street Lighting Improvement (SLI) Program covers a wider footprint than that of its members. A total of 29 councils in metropolitan Sydney, the Central Coast and Hunter, work closely together to improve the provision of street lighting services for which they are responsible. The councils participating in the program collectively encompass over 230,000 street lights or more than 90% of Ausgrid's lighting and about 40% of the street lights in NSW. For more information see: www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au.