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Going underground to light up the streets

The City of Nedlands has accepted Western Power's proposal to connect underground power to about 600 properties in the West Hollywood region, following a unanimous council decision.

It follows a consultation period where 67.9 per cent of those surveyed supported the Nedlands (West Hollywood) Underground Power Project's detailed design estimate.

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said Western Power advised the City it had the option to own and operate the streetlight network within the project area and could also tender for the streetlight network separately.

"All new streetlight networks associated with underground power will be LED-based and there will be options for smart control," he said.

"Existing high-pressure sodium, metal halide and mercury vapour streetlights are not energy efficient and typically operate 12 hours a day at full intensity, which means their energy cost is high – and they only have a lifespan of about five years.

"LED-based streetlights have a lifespan of up to 20 years, enabling lower energy and operational costs, which means they are a more economic, robust and environmentally appropriate method to light the City's streets."

Mayor Hipkins said the City would provide a project coordinator to liaise between Western Power and the community to ensure the underground power project proceeded as smoothly as possible.

"The City of Nedlands will also explore the potential for the electronic-metered supply of the streetlight network, either permanently or as a trial, with Energy Minister Ben Wyatt, Western Power and Synergy," he said.

The Nedlands (West Hollywood) Underground Power Project is expected to begin in mid-2018 – but Mayor Hipkins noted the actual timing of the project's stages was dependent on council and Western Power decisions and the availability of materials and contractors.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of more than 21,000 lives in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information, please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500.