

Media Release

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JOINING FORCES TO TACKLE TREE TRIMMING

Horizon Power and the Shire of Broome are working together to provide a permanent solution to a public safety and power reliability risk in Broome.

One of the main causes of power interruptions is trees or branches touching powerlines.

Untrimmed trees also lead to accidents or electrocution when branches cause powerlines to break and fall to the ground while still live and conducting electricity.

Under the new program, Horizon Power will identify existing trees that are growing too close to powerlines and arrange with the Shire or home owner to replace them with a low-growing tree variety.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report hazardous trees.

The move will not only improve safety and reliability, but eliminate the need for regular maintenance of the trees, saving time and money for households.

Horizon Power Maintenance Power Systems Officer Mathew Wilson said a number of customers had already taken up the offer to have their trees replaced.

“It’s a win-win solution. The community benefits from improved safety and reliability of their power supply and it’s an ongoing cost saving for everyone involved,” he said.

The Shire of Broome maintains all naturally occurring endemic species within the verge.

All other trees planted within the verge or the adjoining property, that extend into the verge area are the responsibility of the landowner whether installed by the current or previous occupants.

Parks and Gardens Supervisor Clint Hankinson said replacing hazardous trees with low-growing species will ensure minimal maintenance for home owners in the future.

“The Shire had a variety of tree species available at no cost to home owners wanting to replace street trees,” he said

Residents who believe their tree may qualify for replacement under the program should contact the Shire.

A copy of the Street Tree Order Form is available from the Shire of Broome Administration Office or on the website.

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