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## Work starts on new Scone substation

Work is underway on EnergyAustralia's new Scone zone substation following completion of the project's environmental assessment.

The \$19 million substation will be built on a 5.8 hectare parcel of land off the New England Highway, just south of Scone.

EnergyAustralia's Executive General Manager Network, Geoff Lilliss, said the assessment had taken into account feedback from the local community and included a number of key safeguards.

"This project will boost the power supply to more than 5000 homes and businesses in Scone, Moonan, Gundy and Rouchel," Mr Lilliss said.

"One of our priorities will be to improve salinity and drainage on the site we have purchased," he said.

"We will concentrate on improving the flow of water through the site, and rainwater tanks will be used to capture any run-off from the substation buildings.

"All the rainwater and run-off collected in our tanks will be used for irrigating plants on our site, or at Scone High School."

He said EnergyAustralia was committed to a five-for-one replacement of plants that will need to be removed for the substation.

"We acknowledge the rehabilitation work carried out by Landcare on this site, and we aim to complement these efforts," Mr Lilliss said.

"In fact, we have used input from the Landcare representatives to develop a landscaping plan that will continue to improve the site.

"We will plant at least 3000 local native trees and plants to replace the 600 saplings that will need to be removed as part of the project.

"These 3000 new plants will be sourced from local nurseries.

"All of the mature plants at the north and north-eastern boundaries of the site will be retained and, in time, the substation building will be almost entirely screened from view by vegetation."

Work on a temporary access track to the site has started, with civil works expected to begin this week.

EnergyAustralia aims to have the substation in service by December 2009, after which the existing substation in Barton Street will be decommissioned.

Mr Lilliss said EnergyAustralia was continuing discussions with residents of Aberdeen on possible routes for the new Aberdeen-Scone power line needed for the Scone substation and a new substation planned for Aberdeen.

"We've listened to the concerns raised by members of the community, and we're considering feasible alternatives suggested by residents," Mr Lilliss said.

"We will continue to consult with residents as we work toward a final route that best meets the needs of both the local and wider communities."

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