

Substation on Wheels Boosts Supply

It's a bit of new kit that's proving its worth.

Southland's only mobile substation was recently put to work at Mossburn to boost the area's electricity supply while the Dipton substation was upgraded.

The substation has the flexibility to operate at multiple voltage levels and is transportable on a semi-trailer.

Essentially 'a substation on wheels', its versatility means it's invaluable as a back-up for balancing and managing electricity as work progresses on The Power Company Ltd network's massive Oreti Valley Project.

The project is a major five-stage plan to upgrade and extend Southland's 66kV lines to Centre Bush, Dipton, Lumsden and Mossburn substations by 2020. For local communities, the outcome will be a more secure electricity supply with increased capacity.

Work to upgrade the Dipton substation coincided with Southland's recent spell of dry weather—as irrigation levels increased so did the demand for electricity.

With the Dipton substation temporarily out of action, the mobile substation was deployed to manage the increase in demand by boosting capacity at Mossburn and balancing the local electricity supply.

"PowerNet would like to thank Northern Southland residents for their patience over the last few weeks while we've upgraded the Dipton substation, as there's been several power interruptions as loads increased due to the hot weather," says PowerNet project manager, Roger Scott.

With the upgraded Dipton substation now commissioned, it's on to upgrading the Lumsden substation, due for completion in October next year.

While this work is done, local customers may be affected by planned outages. PowerNet will let affected customers know in advance prior to the work getting underway.

PowerNet thanks the communities of Northern Southland for their patience and understanding while work continues on the Oreti Valley Project.



Top: PowerNet's mobile substation.

Bottom: Dipton substation under construction.