



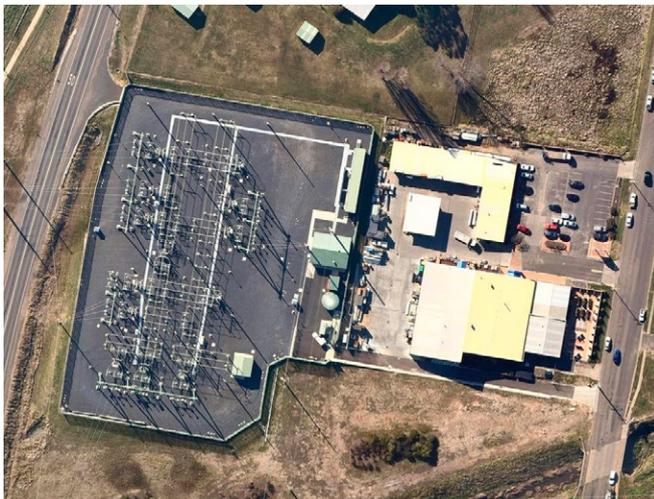
## Powercor improves network design, boosts GIS accuracy and cuts site-visit costs

### about Powercor

Powercor Australia owns and operates the largest of Victoria's five electricity distribution networks, with approximately 540,000 poles carrying 85,000 kilometres of power line over a total network area of almost 150,000 square kilometres. It provides electricity for nearly 750,000 customers in central and western Victoria, as well as Melbourne's outer western suburbs. Powercor's network is closely monitored, and the millions of dollars invested each year to ensure a safe and reliable service has resulted in its customers enjoying network availability of 99.97 per cent.

### the challenge

In view of the expanse and geographic diversity of its electricity distribution network, on the one hand, and its commitment to continuously improving service quality for a growing population, on the other, Powercor was looking to enhance the accuracy of its geospatial data. By utilising high-resolution aerial imagery, as opposed to significantly lower-grade satellite images, into its GIS and AutoCAD systems, it would be able to more precisely identify the location of infrastructure such as power poles and streetlights. This would reduce the requirement for site visits and improve the design of network projects. Furthermore, Powercor aimed to increase the productivity of staff in the field, such as lineworkers, by supporting mobile access to accurate site information.



“ by integrating current, high-resolution, georeferenced **nearmap** imagery with our core GIS and AutoCAD technologies we can rectify errors in our GIS, produce more accurate designs, and locate where our infrastructure, including power poles and streetlights, actually sits in relation to real-world objects, such as kerb lines, assets, buildings and vegetation. In fact, we use **nearmap** to verify much of our data.

Phil Southby, Senior Drafting Officer, Powercor Australia

## why **nearmap**

Powercor integrated **nearmap**'s PhotoMaps™ technology with its core GIS and AutoCAD systems to optimise the value of its geospatial information resources. "By implementing **nearmap** as a layer inside Google Earth Enterprise, we can rectify GIS data, and accurately locate where our poles are in real-world terms," said Phil Southby, a senior drafting officer with Powercor Australia. "We rely on **nearmap** to supply on-the-ground information, which, because it's up-to-date—not like the up to five years old images for regional areas that we used to use—enables us to cut down on site visits, and save a lot of time on the visits we do make."

With **nearmap** feeding seamlessly into its AutoCAD, Powercor's draughting team designs straight over the top of georeferenced aerial photographic surveys. This has led to significant improvements in the designs it produces for network projects, providing project stakeholders with more detailed information, such as actual ground distances and coordinates found in the real world. In fact, such is the level of detail **nearmap** supports that Powercor uses it to verify much of its data.

## further benefits

Before deploying **nearmap**, Powercor's draughting team relied for its geospatial data on a variety of resources, including existing drawings, its GIS system, and whatever survey information, often dated, was available. **nearmap** has enabled it to effectively integrate different technologies and generate more accurate information. "It's such a great tool I don't hesitate to recommend it to the contractors we work with," said Southby. "It allows them to connect with existing assets, access timely and reliable information, and save time and money by performing tasks they would otherwise have had to do themselves."

Moreover, it is not just Powercor's draughtspeople who use **nearmap**. As an intuitive technology, with minimal to zero user-training requirement, it is used more broadly across the organisation. Indeed, the company plans to deploy it as a platform for increasing the productivity of lineworkers by providing clearer, more accurate site information, which they can access on their iPads.

## at a glance

### CHALLENGES

- Enhance accuracy of information delivered via the GIS system by providing high-resolution aerial imagery to overlay Google Earth Enterprise and more precisely identify the location of infrastructure such as power poles
- Reduce site visits by providing on-the-ground information to expand its geo-spatial information resource base, which relied predominantly on GIS, existing AutoCAD drawings and often dated survey information
- Support staff in the field, such as lineworkers, with mobile access to accurate site information

### SOLUTIONS

- Verified location of infrastructure more accurately in relation to real-world features, such as buildings and vegetation, and reduced the number of site visits required by integrating **nearmap** with in-house GIS system and overlaying this on top of Google Earth Enterprise to multiply the scope and quality of geospatial information provided
- Improved design for network projects by feeding georeferenced **nearmap** imagery into AutoCAD, enabling draughting officers to draw straight over the top of aerial photographic surveys, and provided project stakeholders with more detailed information, such as actual ground distances and coordinates found in the real world
- Laid foundation to rollout mobile access to high-resolution, aerial-survey data and increase the productivity of lineworkers by providing them with clear, accurate site information on their iPads thanks to PhotoMaps™
- Increased user engagement and reduced design error by providing an intuitive technology that provides detailed site information with minimal to zero training requirement

## next step

To learn more about how **nearmap** can help you drive better operational outcomes for your organisation [click here](#)



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