

Monowai-Redclyffe – 66kV Rebuild

*Project: Monowai-Redclyffe – 66kV Rebuild
Client: PowerNet Limited
Location: Fiordland, New Zealand
Contract Value: NZ\$1.1m*



Electrix were engaged in the re-construction of a 20km section of PowerNet's Monowai-Redclyffe 66kV line in Fiordland in the early months of 2008. This work completed the last two stages of the wood pole single circuit line upgrade which was originally started by PowerNet contractors in the 1990's.

Project work in the PowerNet area is usually reserved for its Alliance Partners, but in this case Electrix was engaged due to its extensive experience in high voltage sub-transmission line construction (as also evidenced by the construction of the 66kV White Hill Wind Farm Deviation on the PowerNet network), and its ability to undertake the work within the required time frame utilising staff and equipment from its local Otago/Southland resource pool.

Approximately 130 poles were replaced, which involved carefully coordinating access with local farming and forestry operations, and stringing approximately 20km of three phase 66kV Iodine AAAC conductor, including approximately 7km of underhung single phase 11kV (Helium conductor).

Despite commencing the upgrade in mid-summer, with only moderate rain some sections of the line became inaccessible even with Electrix' four wheel drive crane truck, and a specialist forestry all-terrain "forder" was utilised to delivery poles to these sites. Poles at these sites were erected using an excavator with staff access via ladder only.

Up to ten staff were involved in the upgrade works, with two crane trucks, two four wheel drive elevated work platform vehicles (EWP's) and four wheel drive support vehicles as required.

With daily outages required to safely access the equipment, the work had to be carefully planned to ensure work packages were completed in time for this line to be returned to service nightly, and to minimise the impact of the outages on local consumers

"Excellent cost control, performance & completion of this project. A pleasure working with Electrix", wrote the satisfied Client.



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