# **Electricity Distribution**

## BY DAVID & DEBBIE HIBBERT



## **Electricity Distribution**

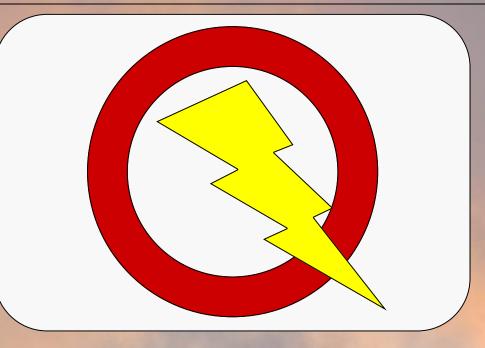
#### - David & Debbie Hibbert -

Electricity is an invisible energy resulting from the existence of charged particles (electrons and protons). These form an electrical current or static charge.

An electrical current is produced when electrons move along a conductor such as an electrical wire. Electrons can move back and forth (AC - Alternating Current) or in one single direction (DC - Direct Current). Both AC or DC can kill humans.



## DANGER!



Electricity is invisible to detect and can kill. Never interfere with electrical devices or wiring. Only an Electrician is qualified to work with electricity.

## Basic Electricity Distribution

## **BASIC DISTRIBUTION**

The production of electricity is called <u>Generation</u>.

The transfer of electricity is called **Distribution**.

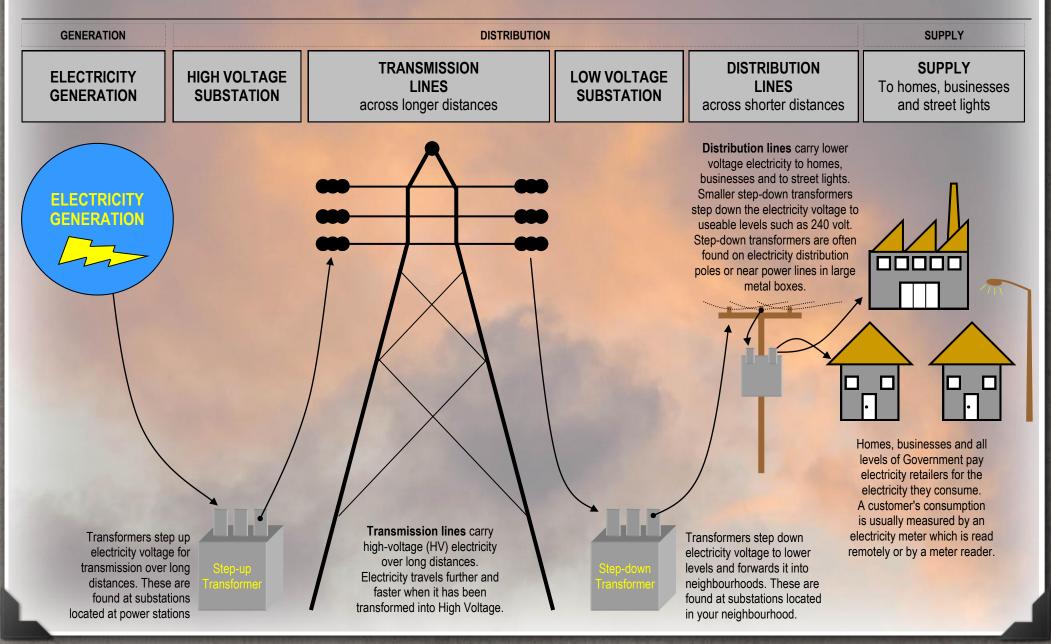
The supply of electricity to customers is called <u>Supply</u>.

## **BASIC DISTRIBUTION**

Electricity is generated in one location and is distributed to paying customers in another location via high voltage (HV) transmission lines and low voltage (LV) distribution lines (power lines).

Customers include homes, businesses and Governments who use electricity for things such as street lighting.

## BASIC ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION



## Power Generation

## GENERATION

Electricity can be generated in mechanical and chemical based systems, and is also produced naturally in nature

## ELECTRICITY GENERATION

#### Mechanical

Turbines are spun which rotate generators and alternators to generate useable electricity:

**Coal** (Burning coal > steam > turbines)

Gas (Natural Gas > steam > turbines)

**Hydroelectric** (Water movement > turbines)

Wind (Wind power > turbines)

Waves (Wave power > turbines)

**Nuclear** (Nuclear Fission > steam > turbines)

**Geothermal** (Heat from the earth >steam > turbines)

#### Chemical

Chemicals create a reaction that produces useable electricity:

**Photoelectric** (Solar energy from sunlight)

**Batteries** (Car and truck batteries) (Small batteries for electronic devices)

**Fuel Cells** (Converts Hydrogen and Oxygen into water, producing electricity as a by-product)

**Battery Storage** (Electricity can be stored for long periods)

#### In Nature

Nature produces electricity in small amounts or in unusable forms:

Lightning (large static discharge)

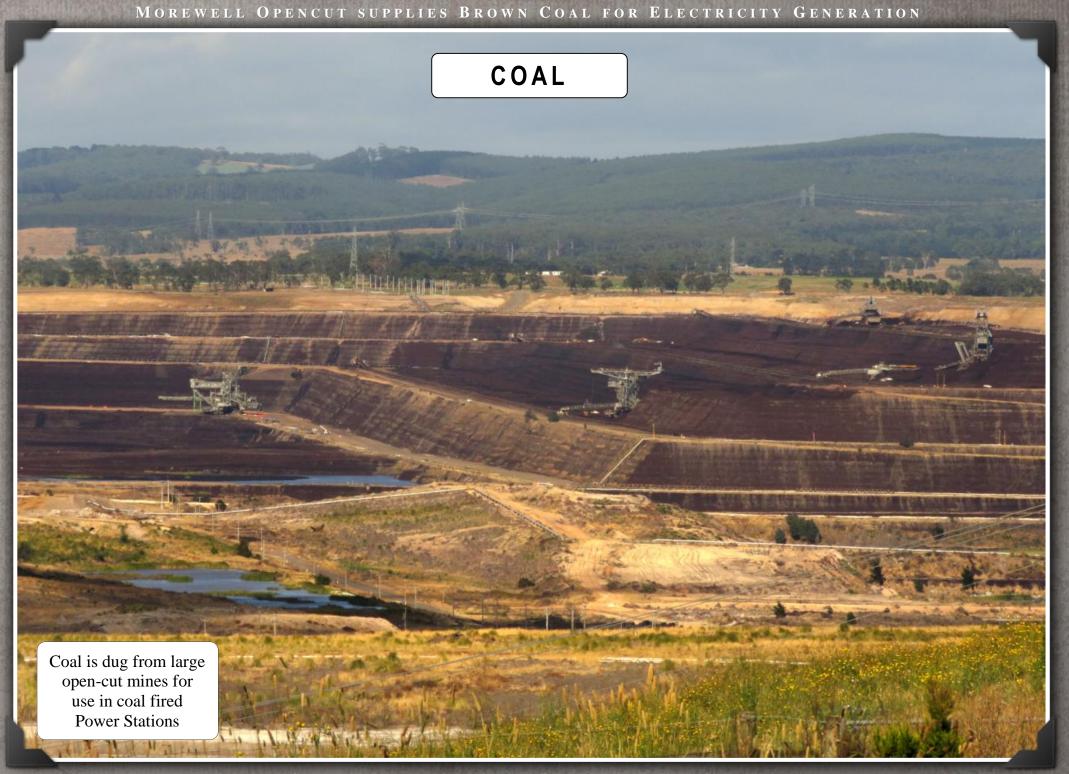
Static electricity

Heat differential

**Piezoelectric crystals & ceramics** 

**Glowing insects** 

Human body's nervous system and heart's pacemaker

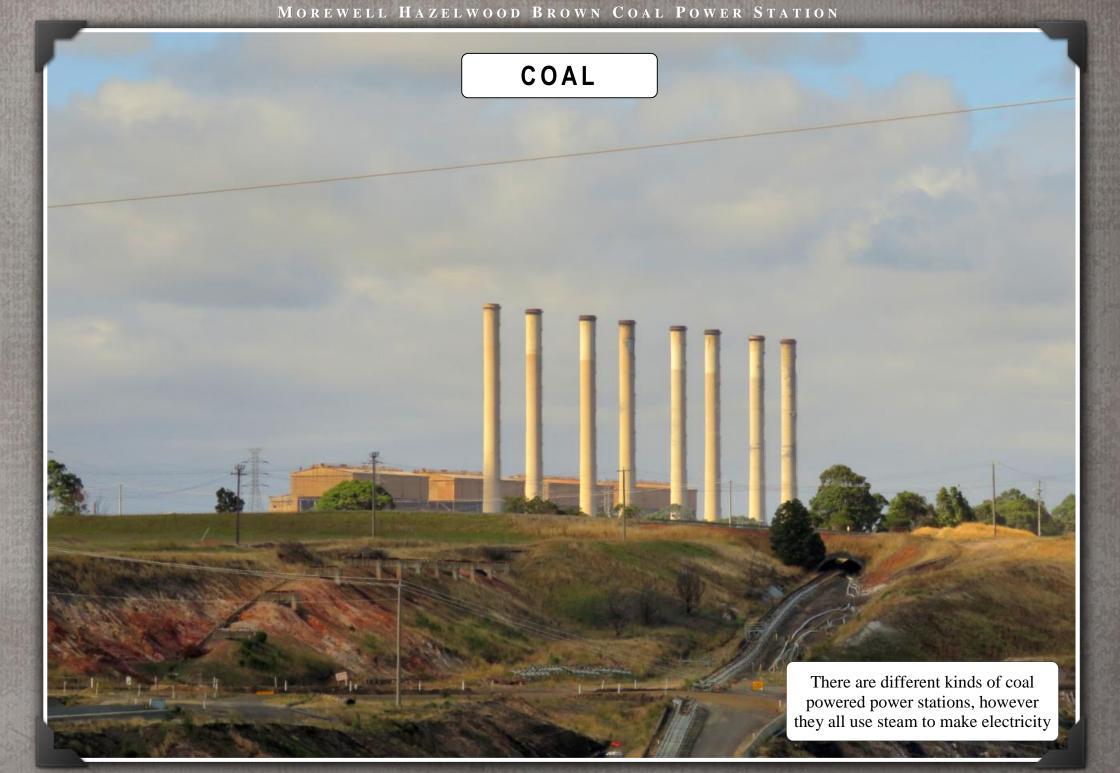


A fire started at this open-cut mine on 9 February 2014 and burnt for 45 days.



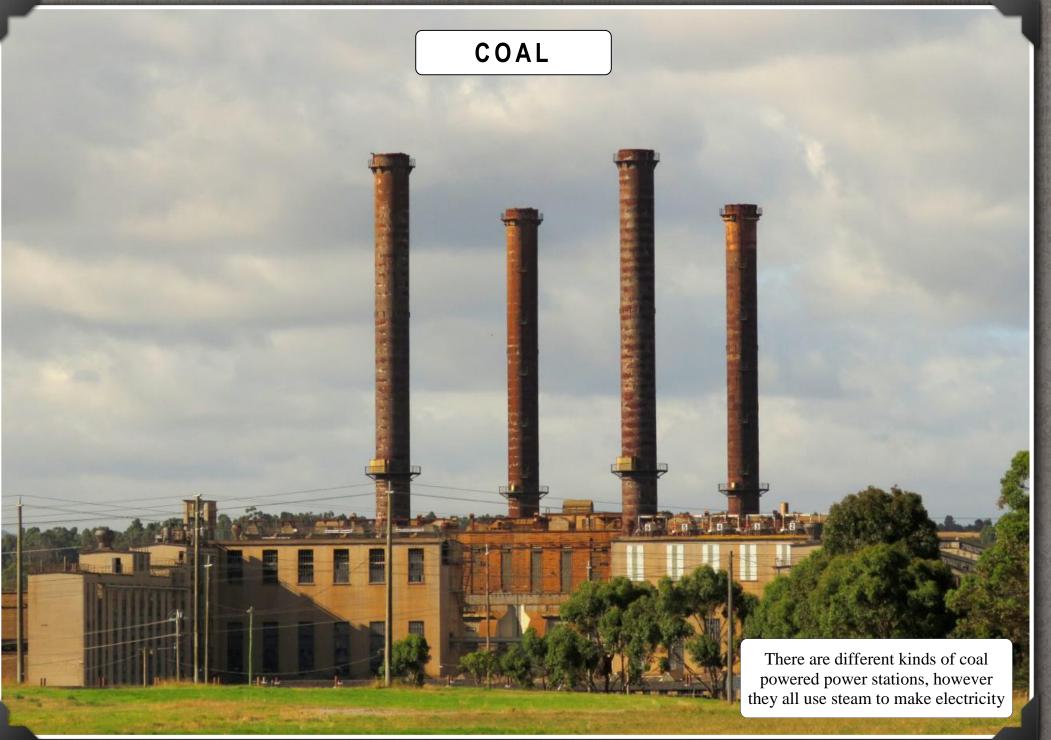
COAL

Burning coal produces heat. This is used to make steam that turns large electricity generating turbines



When operational, it was the world's least efficient carbon power station, finally closing on 31 March 2017



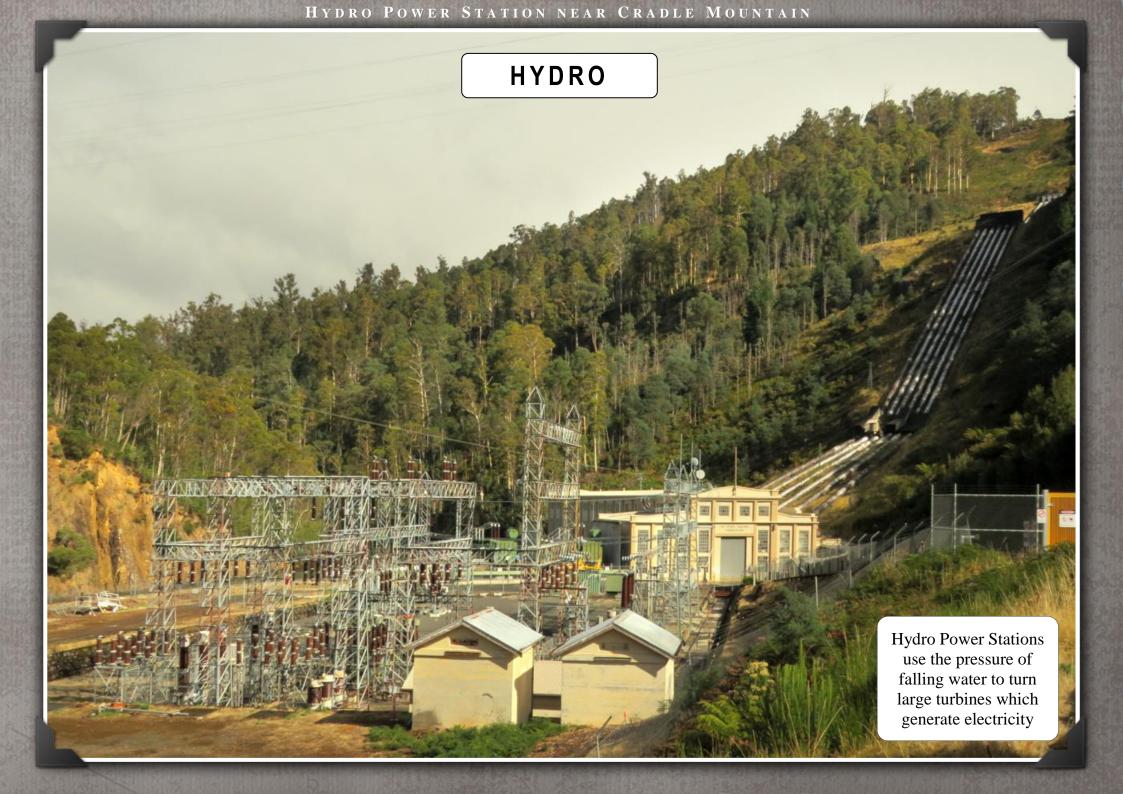


This Power Station closed in August 2014

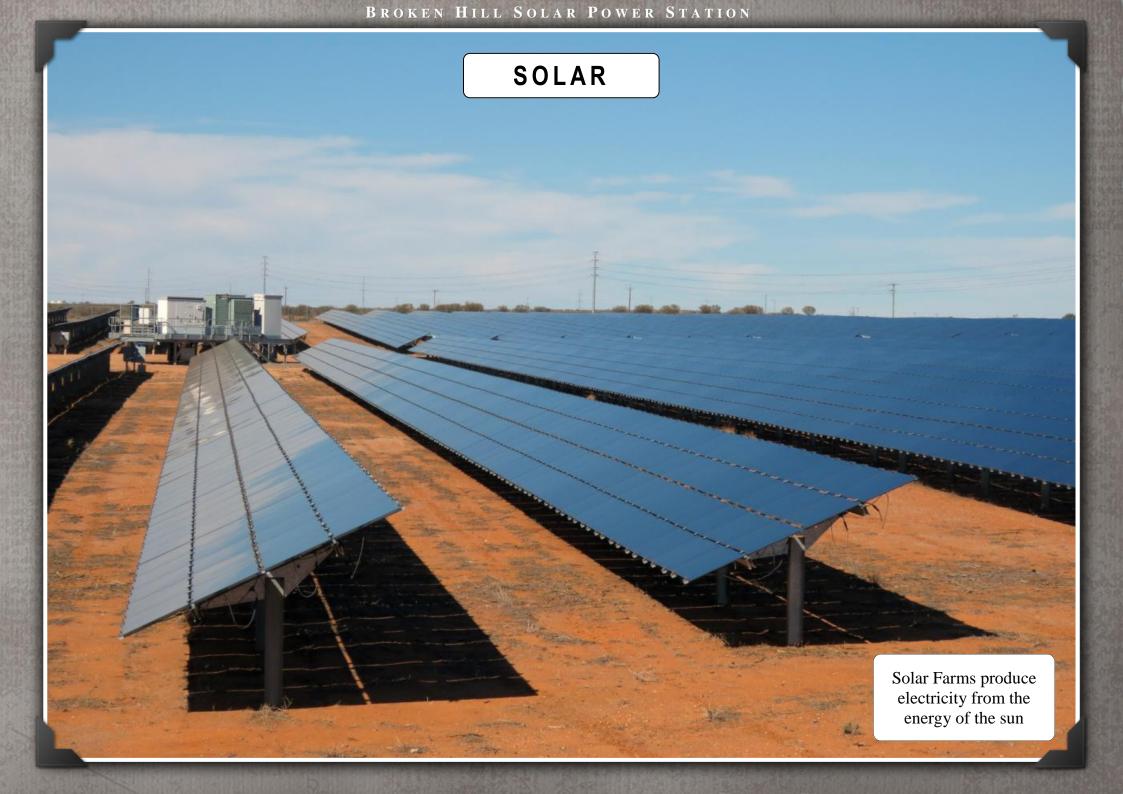


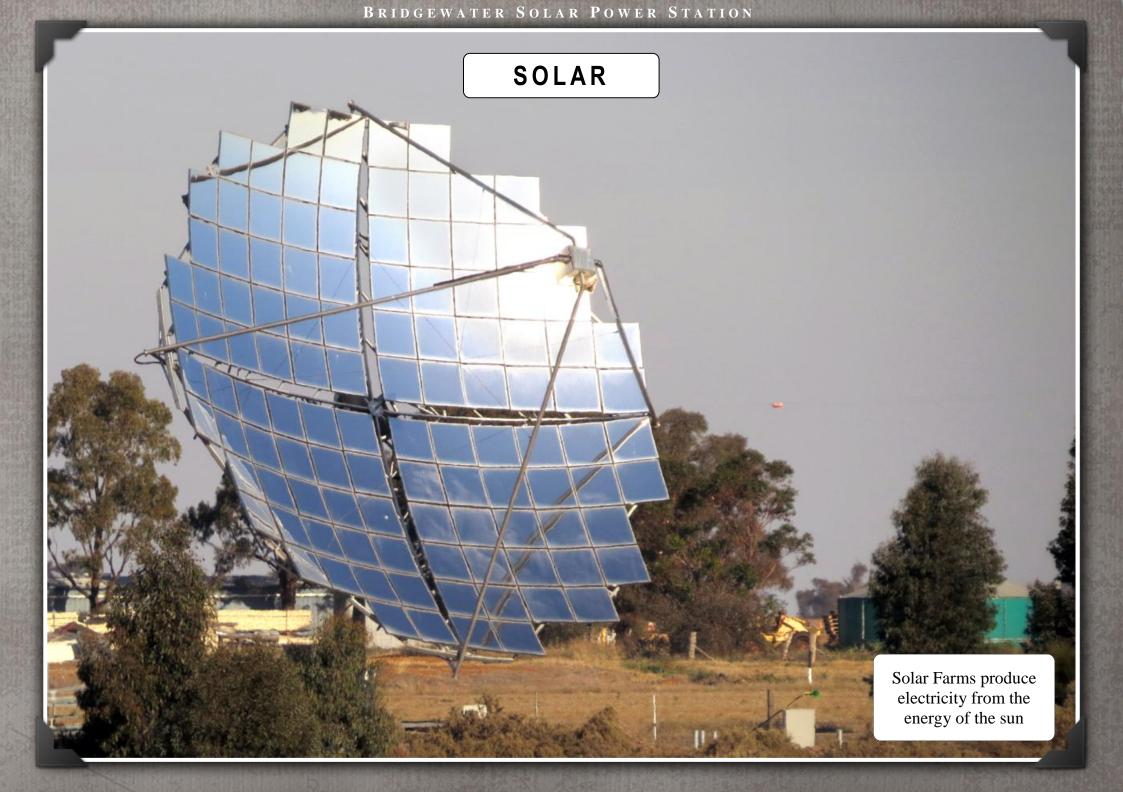
GAS

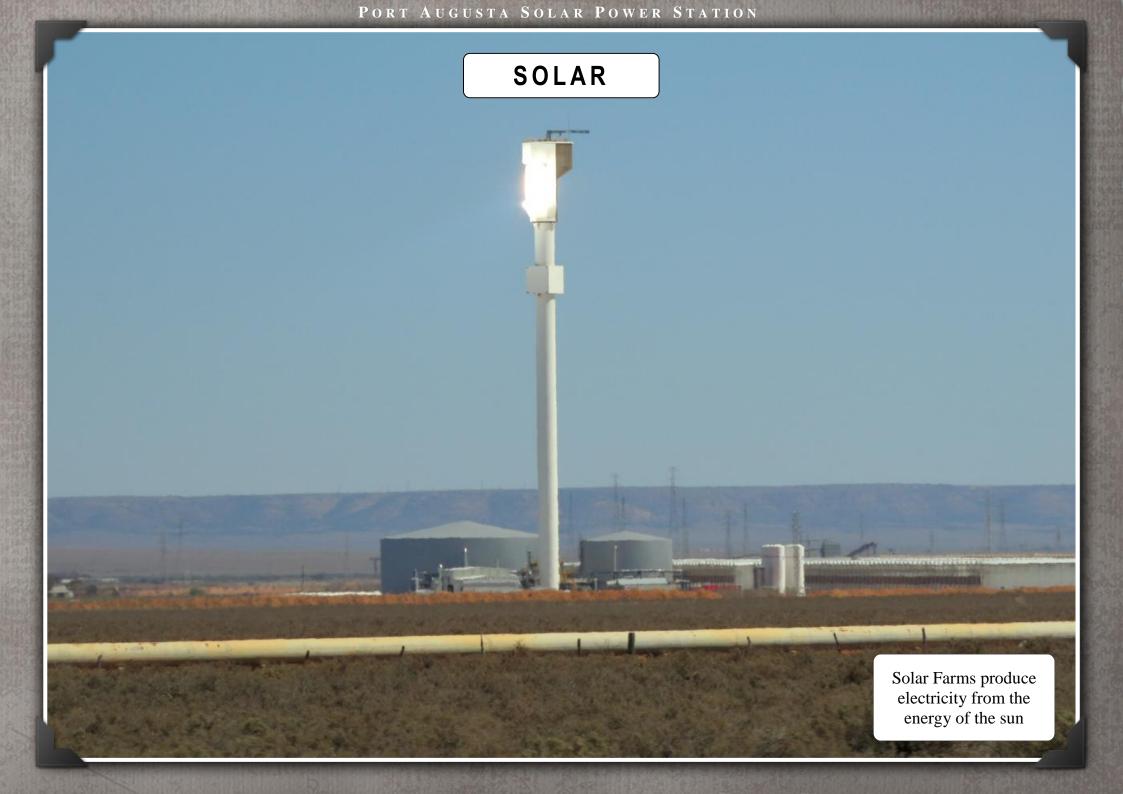
This Power Station is powered by natural gas and can be easily turned on and off depending on demand







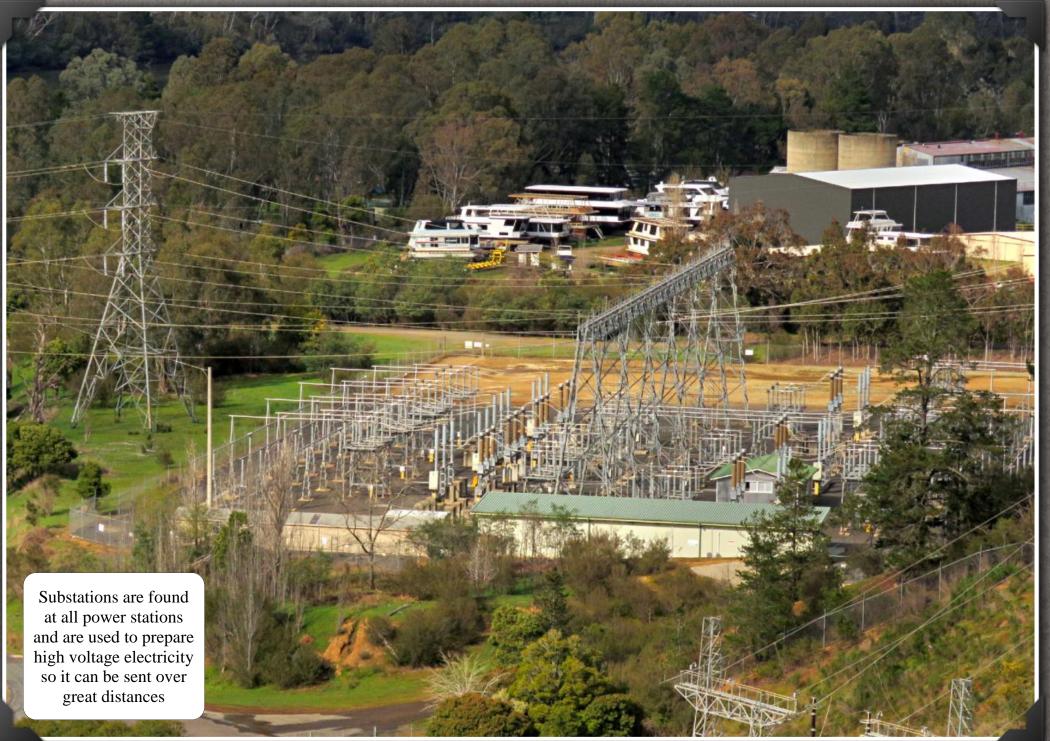




## High Voltage (HV) Substation

Transforming newly generated electricity into a Higher Voltage using Step-up transformers, so it can be transferred to customers

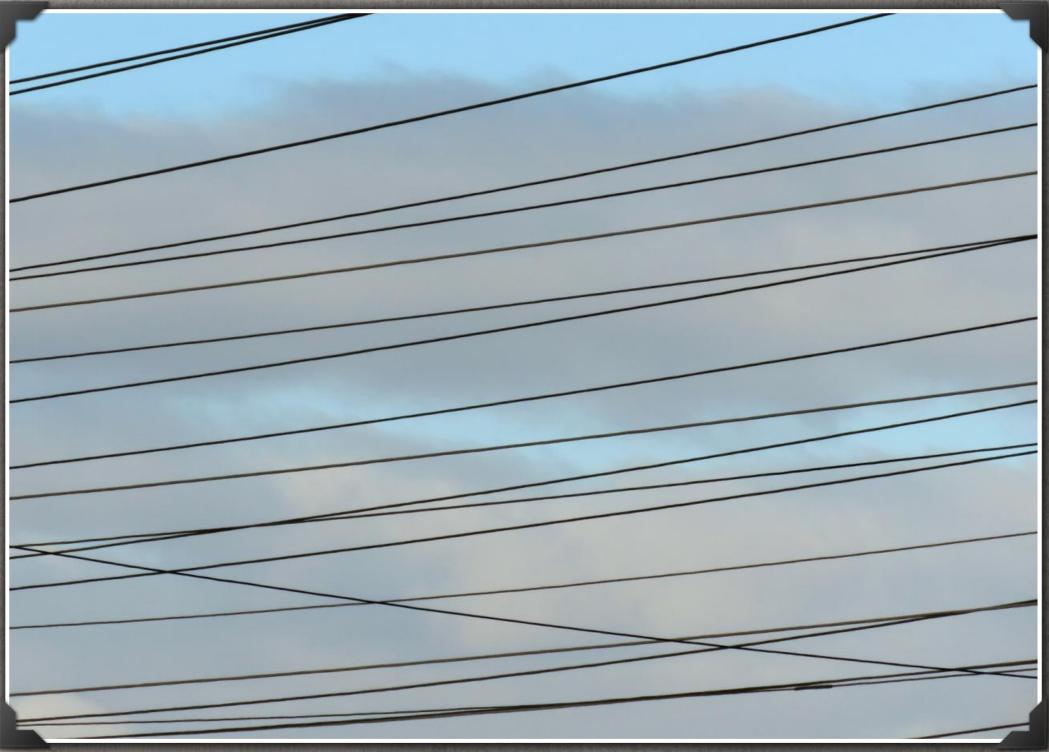
SUBSTATION AT A HYDRO POWER STATION



## **Transmission Lines**

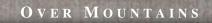
Distributing High Voltage (HV) Electricity across Great Distances

ELECTRICITY IS TRANSFERRED FROM ONE SPOT TO ANOTHER USING CABLE



CABLES ARE SUSPENDED ON TRANSMISSION LINES AND POLES



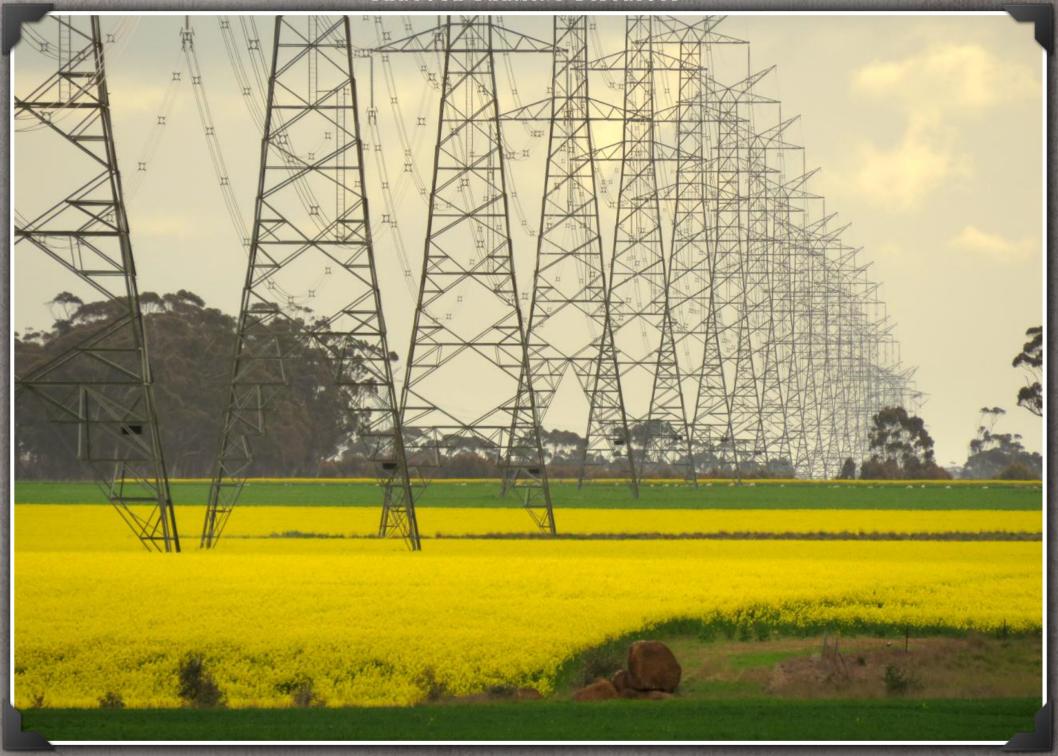








THROUGH FARMING DISTRICTS

















TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY INDUSTRY









# **Step-down Transformers**

Stepping down High Voltage (HV) Electricity to Low Voltage (LV) for Customers





STEP-DOWN TRANSFORMERS COME IN DIFFERENT STYLES



STEP-DOWN TRANSFORMER PRODUCING A LOWER VOLTAGE



## **Distribution Lines**

Distributing Low Voltage Electricity to Paying Customers

MEDIUM VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION LINES

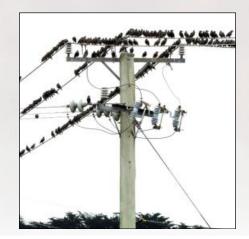


LOW VOLTAGE (240 VOLT) DISTRIBUTION LINES



### **DID YOU KNOW**

A single bird sitting on a power cable will not be electrocuted. But if that bird forms a circuit by touching another bird sitting on another power cables, electricity will flow through the first bird and into the second bird, killing them both.

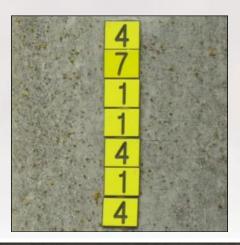






### **DID YOU KNOW**

Each Victorian Distribution Pole has a number which is unique to that pole. These numbers are shared between electricity distribution companies and are able to be used in an emergency to accurately locate that pole on a map. This means that emergency services can arrange for power company employees to be sent to the correct location.

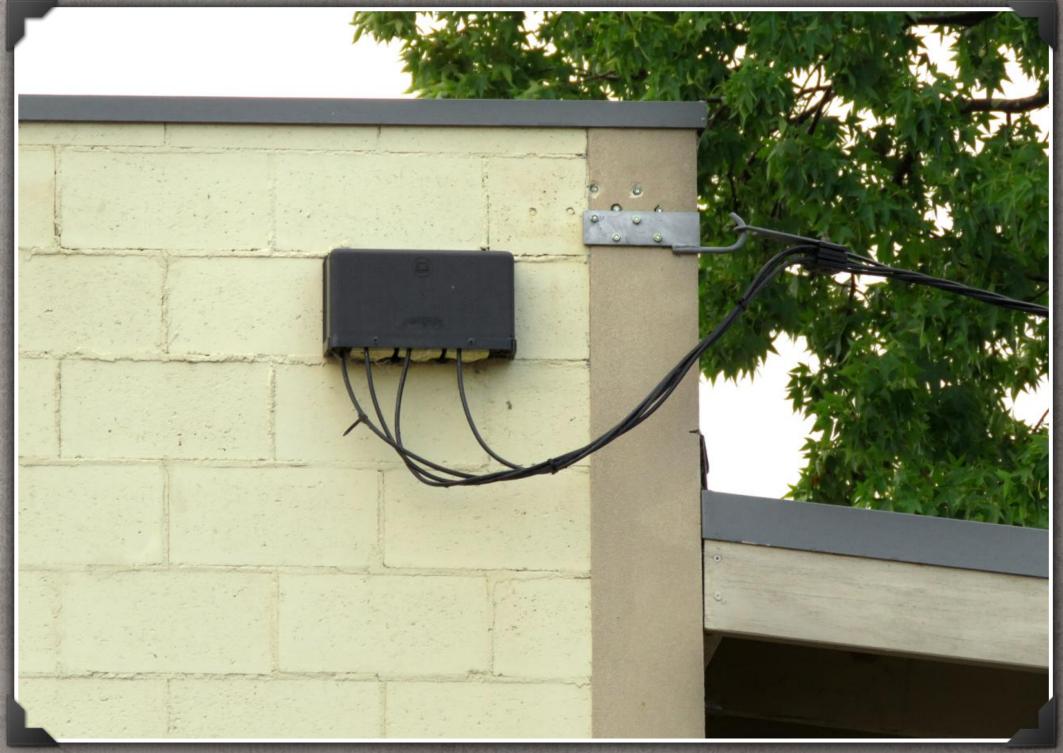








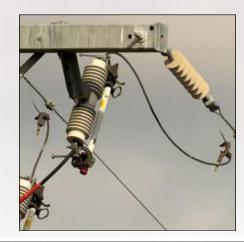
BUSINESS CONNECTION POINT - THREE PHASE POWER (PROVIDING UP TO 415 VOLT)





### **DID YOU KNOW**

The distribution of electricity is only possible due to insulators, which do not allow electricity to pass through them. Insulators stop the electricity from moving from the wires, down the pole and into the ground.





#### **ELECTRICITY FACTS**

The flow of electrons along a conductor is called a current. A conductor is any material that allows electricity to pass through it. An insulator is any material that restricts the flow of electricity through it.

An electric charge is measured in Amps and can be measured with Amp-meters. The pressure (potential) of an electric charge is measured in Volts and can be measured using a Volt-meter.

A static charge is the build-up of electricity on a stationary surface such as a jumper, and can range to more than 3000 volts. Lightning can be over three million volts and travel at the speed of light. Electric eels produce electric shocks greater than 500 volts.

Benjamin Franklin did not discover electricity as many suppose, but he did prove that electricity could produce lighting.

The first battery was created by Alessandro Volta over 200 years ago and the first power station (power plant) was established in the American city of New York in 1882 by Thomas Edison. Thomas is credited with over 1000 other inventions, including electrical devices such as switches, fuses and meters for measuring electricity use.

In 2017 billionaire <u>Elon Musk</u> (Tesla) made history by installing the worlds largest lithium-ion battery backup system (for mains power) ever built at that time. It was constructed in South Australia with an operating (holding) capacity of 100 megawatts. Elon promised he would install it in 100 days or it would be free—and he did.

Electricity will always try to find a path to the ground. This will include through people if they get in the way. Most people who die from electrocution when they touch a wire or a metal object that is electrified.

The human heart only needs a minute amount of electric current to stop it beating.

#### 'epic'

epic - (adjective) Surpassing the usual or ordinary ePic - (noun) Illustrated by electronic pictures



#### The free Artworkz 'ePic Photo Group' eMagazine

Special thanks to Allan Layton and Kathie Maynes

ePic Photographers: David & Debbie Hibbert

An Artworkz eSplash Publication First published 27 May 2018