HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	**PLACE:**	26588
ADDRESS:	Kaurna Country 500 Grand Junction Road, Angle Park 5010		

This heritage assessment considers that the place meets criteria (a), (e) and (g). Refer to Summary of State Heritage Place for final approved wording, including criteria statements.

Tribute to James Cyril Stobie showing original 1924 Stobie pole (left) and commemorative plaque (right), 2024.

Source: DEW Files

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie demonstrates the expansion of South Australia's electricity industry during the first half of the twentieth century. Erected in 1960 to commemorate Stobie and his invention, the tribute incorporates a 1924 Stobie pole removed from the Freeling to Templers line, the first line erected by the Adelaide Electric Supply Company (AESCo) during its expansion into country South Australia.

This pole demonstrates a high degree of creative accomplishment through its innovative combination of steel and concrete. Had it not been for this design, the wholesale electrification of South Australia would have been delayed. Along with its commemorative plaque, the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie bears a special association with its namesake.

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities
    4.6 Supplying services and utilities
5. Developing South Australia's Economies
    5.1 Developing South Australia's economy
6. Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and Building Communities)
    6.6 Commemorating achievements, milestones and significant events

Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

Three main themes are considered in this section. Each is considered in turn.

- Electricity generation and supply, AESCo and ETSA,
- Utilities,
- Memorials and Tributes.

Electricity Generation and Supply, AESCo and ETSA

Several State and Local Heritage Places demonstrate the emergence and growth of the provision of electricity in South Australia in the first half of the twentieth century. There are four State Heritage Places (SHPs) associated with AESCo and ETSA, the two enterprises primarily responsible for the initial rollout of electricity. They are:

- Tandanya (former Adelaide Electric Supply Company Power Station), 1901, 241-259 Grenfell Street, Adelaide (SHP 10984, listed 8 November 1984),
- Adelaide Electric Supply Company Converter Station, 1923-1924, 48-51 East Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 10985, listed 8 November 1984),
- Former Adelaide Electric Supply Co Ltd – Four former garages and two double story office/workshop buildings, 1924-1937, 32-56 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Mile End (SHP 26308, listed 25 October 2013),
- Kelvin Building, 1926, 233-236 North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 26573, provisionally listed 14 March 2024).

There are two Local Heritage Places that are associated with AESCo and ETSA, namely:

- ETSA Warehouse, c.1900, 47-51 Tam-O-Shanter Place, Adelaide and 22-26 Devonshire Place, Adelaide (LHP).
- Electric Supply Company Transformer, c.1917, 107 Port Road, Thebarton (LHP).

There is another SHP related to electricity generation but distinct from AESCo and ETSA:

- Power Station, also known as Former Peterborough Power Station, 77-79 Kitchener Street, Peterborough (SHP 14234, listed on 26 May 1994).

Except for the Power Station in Peterborough (SHP 14243), all the SHPs related to electricity are located within metropolitan Adelaide. These SHPs are directly associated with the emergence and expansion of the industry, but only indirectly demonstrate its rollout into 'country districts' or regional areas.

Two important places associated with the early history of electricity generation in South Australia, namely the Nile Street powerhouse (1899) and the Osborne Power Station (1923), have both been demolished.

Former Adelaide Electric Supply Co Ltd – Four former garages and two double storey office/workshop buildings (SHP 26308).

Source: Google Street View, 2020

Tandanya (former Adelaide Electric Supply Company Power Station) (SHP 10984) (right), Former Adelaide Electric Supply Company Converter Station (SHP 10985) (middle) and Former Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) No.1 Converter Station (SHP 10986) (left).

Source: Google Street View, 2023

Kelvin Building (SHP 26573)

Source: DEW Files

Other Utilities

Places associated with utilities in South Australia are well represented within the South Australian Heritage Register (the Register). A keyword search for 'utilities' using the State Heritage Places Database yields 84 results.[1] 48 of them are directly related to water, including its supply, usage and control. By contrast, there are five SHPs explicitly related to electricity; four related to gas; and four to waste and sewage. The remaining SHPs are related to various other forms of utilities and their provision that cannot be readily categorised.[2]

A representative sample of State Heritage Places associated with assorted utilities in South Australia include:

Water

- Office E. & W. S. Main Depot, also known as Water Offices (former Gawler Pumping Station), Murray Street, Gawler (SHP 12161, listed on 28 November 1985).
- William R. Randell Lock and Weir, Blanchetown (SHP 10095, listed on 29 May 1981).
- Water Supply Structure – Brick Boiler Stack, also known as Brick Boiler Stack, Loveday Irrigation Scheme Pumping Station, Morris Street, Loveday (SHP 13765, listed on 29 June 1989).
- Whispering Wall, Barossa Reservoir, 65 Whispering Wall Road, Williamstown (SHP 16929, listed under criterion e on 8 July 1999).

Gas

- Retort Building and Chimney Stack – Gas Retort, also known as Brompton Gas Works, 1879 Retort House, Remains of 1891 Retort House and Chimney Stack, 1-21 Chief Street, Brompton (SHP 11823, listed on 28 May 1987).
- Dwelling and Factory, also known as Former Colonial Gas Company Strathalbyn Gas Works including Dwelling and Outbuilding, 12-14A South Terrace Strathalbyn (SHP 14086, listed 27 September 1990).

Waste Disposal

- Incinerator, also known as Former Hindmarsh Incinerator designed by Walter Burley Griffin, Burley Griffin Boulevard, Brompton (SHP 10555, listed on 24 July 1980).
- Straining Shed – Former, also known as Former Straining Shed of Islington Sewage Farm, Pedder Crescent (off Regency Road), Regency Park (SHP 11752, listed on 5 April 1984).

Whispering Wall (SHP 16929).

Source: DEW Files, 2024

Retort Building and Chimney Stack – Gas Retort (Brompton Gas Works) (SHP 16929).

Source: DEW Files, 2021

Straining Shed – Former (Former Straining Shed of Islington Sewage Farm) (SHP 11752)

Monuments, Memorials and Tributes

There are hundreds of monuments, memorials and tributes listed as either State or Local Heritage Places in South Australia, the bulk of which are related to colonial, pastoral and pioneer figures or war commemoration. There are many monuments and tributes throughout South Australia that represent other themes, including industrial and commercial development, however, most are Local Heritage Places or are unlisted.

A representative sample of monuments and tributes associated with commercial and industrial development in South Australia include:

- AMP Memorial and Wiles Hut, also known as Land Rover on a Pole, Ellis Street, Keith (LHP, authorised 13 September 2007); commemorates the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) and its role in the Land Development Scheme that commenced in 1950.
- Quarrying Monument, Caithness Avenue, Beaumont (LHP, authorised 11 March 2005); commemorates quarrying in South Australia.
- 'Aerospace Industry', plaque, Woomera (unlisted); commemorates the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and Woomera's place in the industry.
- '100 Years of Gas Supply', plaque, Ellen Street, Port Pirie (unlisted); commemorates the centenary of gas provision in Port Pirie.
- '125 Years of Winemaking', bust of Thomas Hardy and plaques, 202 Main Road, McLaren Vale (unlisted); commemorates winemaker Thomas Hardy.
- '150 Years of Copper Mining and Smelting', plaque and objects, Heritage Drive, Wallaroo (unlisted); commemorates the copper industry at Wallaroo at the upper Yorke Peninsula.
- '150 Years of River Trade', plaque, River Lane, Mannum (unlisted); commemorates the Murray River's historic commercial importance.

- 'Centenary of Women in Agriculture and Business of South Australia', plaque and garden, Albyn Terrace and Rankine Street, Strathalbyn (unlisted); commemorates the role of rural women in the agriculture and commerce.
- 'Australian Farmer', sculpture, Eyre Highway and Byrne Road, Wudinna (unlisted); commemorates Australian farmers.[3]

AMP Memorial and Wiles Hut (LHP)

Source: Google Street View, 2023

'Australian Farmer'

Source: Google Street View, 2023

Assessment against Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. All Criteria have been assessed using the 2020 Guidelines.

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric.*
>
> *Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.*

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is associated with three historic themes: 'Building Settlements, Towns and Cities', specifically 'Supplying services and utilities'; 'Developing South Australia's Economies', specifically 'Developing South Australia's Economy'; and Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and Building Communities), specifically 'Commemorating achievements, milestones and significant events'.

Notably, the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie demonstrates the pattern of provision of services and utilities in South Australia, particularly electricity and the expansion of the network outside of the metropolitan area. In the early 1920s, the Adelaide Electric

Supply Company (AESCo), the largest electricity supplier in South Australia, devised plans to expand the supply of electricity into the country districts of South Australia. Lacking suitable timber supplies to erect the necessary utility poles to expand the network, in 1924 James Cyril Stobie (Cyril) an AESCo employee, designed a new composite pole made from steel and concrete.

While the first Stobie poles were erected on South Terrace in Adelaide, the 1924 pole that largely forms the Tribute is one of the original Stobie poles planted as a part of the initial expansion of the network into the country on the Freeling to Templar line. It was the Stobie pole that enabled this expansion of electricity across South Australia and without it, the wholesale electrification of the State would have been delayed, impacting on the provision of what has become an essential service and the economic development of the State.

Although the Former Adelaide Electric Supply Co Ltd – Four former garages and two double story office/workshop buildings (SHP 26308), Adelaide Electric Supply Company Converter Station (SHP 10985) and Kelvin Building (SHP 26573), all demonstrate the role of AESCO and the generation and supply of electricity in South Australia, it is the 1924 Stobie pole in the Tribute that demonstrates the expansion and popularisation of electricity into country South Australia from the 1920s onwards. It is for these reasons that the Tribute is considered to **fulfil** criterion (a).

(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.*
>
> *Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in the future.*

The Stobie pole incorporated into the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is one of 650,000 such poles currently distributed across South Australia. While the Tribute is the only know Stobie pole remaining that was constructed following Stobie's original design, this design was produced for less than two years before being replaced by the modified version which has been in use since c.1926 and is still being made and used by SA Power Networks. Consequently, Stobie poles cannot be described as rare, uncommon or endangered. As the first test has not been met, no further tests are considered under this criterion.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (b).

(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.*
>
> *Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.*

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is located at SA Power Network's manufacturing plant at Angle Park and it is here that Stobie poles have been manufactured since 1956. There is a variety of primary and secondary sources, including documents, newspaper articles, patents and photographs that detail the design and manufacture of Stobie poles. The likelihood that the site would yield any information not already known that would contribute meaningfully to the history of South Australia that cannot be acquired through other means is very unlikely.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion I.

(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.*
>
> *Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.*

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is associated with the class of place known as monuments, memorials and tributes. These structures take many forms and typically commemorate individuals, groups, events or objects that are considered important by their creators and attendant communities. There are hundreds of monuments, memorials and tributes located throughout South Australia, many of which are listed as State or Local Heritage Places. Many more are unlisted (see Comparability/Rarity/Representation).

Some common characteristics of monuments, memorials and tributes include plaques that describe, explain and commemorate their subjects; items or objects that are associated with or represent their subjects; and decorative features, such as stonework.

Although the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is the only monument, memorial or tribute known to feature a Stobie pole, the inclusion of items or objects associated with their subject is common. The inclusion of the Stobie pole is an appropriate tribute to James Cyril Stobie, but there is otherwise no evidence to suggest the tribute is an exceptional, influential or pivotal example of the class as it is like many other monuments, memorials or tributes in South Australia. Consequently, the tribute is not considered to be an outstanding example of the class.

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is also associated with the class of place known as utility poles. Utility poles play a crucial role in transmitting electric signals and currents throughout South Australia, as well as supporting street lights and other infrastructure, like telephone and internet cables.

Principal characteristics of utility poles include:

- an elongated vertical shaft built from a variety of materials,
- variety of attachments towards the top of the shaft designed to fix and support cabling, insulators, street lights, etc. to the pole.
- cabling, insulators, street lights, etc. connected to the pole,
- integration within a transmission line or network, i.e. not self-contained or standalone.

The tribute includes an original 1924 Stobie pole. Although this pole is a good example of James Cyril Stobie's original design, it is not an outstanding representative of the class of place as it no longer includes its attachments or other items typically connected to utility poles. It is also not integrated as part of a transmission line or network. The loss of elements has reduced its intactness and integrity meaning it no longer demonstrates the class to an outstanding degree.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (d).

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its times. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.*
>
> *Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement,*

while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.

The 1924 Freeling to Templers pole incorporated into the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie demonstrates a high degree of creative accomplishment. It is also an outstanding example of the creative adaptation of the materials available in the early twentieth century to achieve an engineered response for a uniquely South Australian problem. Stobie's innovative design for a utility pole brought together two well-established materials, namely steel and concrete, combining them in an original way.

The first utility poles erected in South Australia were made from timber imported at a high cost from interstate and vulnerable to termites, dry rot and fire. Alternatives using materials such as iron, steel, or reinforced concrete proved uneconomical and the lack of a durable pole threatened AESCo's planned expansion into South Australia's country districts.

It was Stobie's understanding that utility poles are not symmetrically loaded across the vertical axis, as well as his awareness of the static and dynamic loading on the poles and directionality of the forces in play, that led to the design of the composite pole in 1924. Essentially, the pole needs to be very strong in one direction only. Stobie realised he could reduce the weight of the steel needed across the pole, with greater use of material at points exposed to higher forces, notably where the pole meets the ground. This resulted in the use of two steel I-beams, the iconic shape, and concrete fill and steel ties to assist with, respectively, compression and tensile forces. Stobie refined the design slightly in 1926 and the pole remains the dominant design for utility poles deployed in South Australia. As the only pole built to Stobie's initial 1924 design known to exist, the 1924 pole demonstrates how Stobie's creative solution was first applied and the ways in which it formed the basis for all subsequent poles.

Stobie's accomplishment has been recognised by Andrew Russack, a former manager for ETSA Utilities and expert on Stobie poles who asserted 'Stobie's contribution [the design of the pole] to South Australian prosperity cannot be overestimated'. His contribution is also recognised in the naming of Stobie Place in the Canberra suburb of Monash and the fact that Stobie poles continue to be used widely throughout South Australia, nothing other than the undergrounding of services competing with the Stobie pole.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does fulfil** criterion (e).

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.*

Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie may have cultural associations for former employees of the Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA) and current employees of SA Power Networks, now the manufacturer of Stobie poles. While former employees of ETSA or current employees of SA Power Networks might collectively be considered a group that resonates broadly across the state, there is no evidence to suggest that all members of these groups collectively have a strong cultural or spiritual connection with the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie. Any subset of the larger group would not be considered to resonate broadly across the State as a group of significance to South Australia.

Although Stobie poles have at times been divisive to some South Australians, they have nonetheless become iconic and a part of the state's identity. The term itself has been ingrained as a surrogate for utility pole, which is more typically used elsewhere. However, this connection is to Stobie poles generally and could thus be applied to any or all of them. There is nothing to indicate that the tribute itself or the 1924 pole featured as part of it has a cultural or spiritual association with South Australia's identity.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (f).

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.

Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is associated with engineer James Cyril Stobie, whose innovative utility pole design enabled the expansion of electricity across South Australia. Stobie (b. 1895 – d. 1953) was trained as a mechanical and electrical engineer at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries. He was employed by

the Adelaide Electric Supply Company (AESCo) in 1916. After having been embraced and mentored by Frederick Wheadon, AESCO's chief executive, Stobie was appointed as the company's chief draughtsperson in 1923.

While working for AESCo, in 1924 Stobie designed the first version of the utility pole which has come to be known as the 'Stobie pole', now a household name. Stobie's design sought to overcome some of the specific challenges AESCo faced in its plan to expand its electricity supply across South Australia. Thousands of utility poles were required to carry power lines connecting country districts to the Osborne Power Station. However, the timber used for previous utility poles was scarce in South Australia and had to be imported from elsewhere, primarily New South Wales. Such poles had a limited service-life due to damage inflicted by dry rot and termites.

Stobie's solution was to build poles out of metal (iron or steel) and concrete, which were both economical and durable. In 1926, he redesigned the pole, which formed the basis for all subsequent Stobie poles. The poles were first erected in large numbers throughout the country districts, and by the end of the 1930s it was the only kind of pole manufactured and installed by AESCo and by the 1960s it was used all over South Australia. A century later, there are now around 650,000 of them dispersed across the state.

First unveiled in 1960, the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie was built to recognise Stobie's contribution to South Australia's electricity industry. Originally designed by Brian Lewis, the monument features a plaque and a 1924 utility pole removed from the Freeling to Templers line, making it one of the first to be erected by AESCo in South Australia. Together, these elements represent what is indisputably Stobie's most iconic, ubiquitous and sometimes contentious contribution to South Australia. It is therefore considered to be the most appropriate place to recognise the contribution of James Cyril Stobie to South Australia.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion (g).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This place commemorates James Cyril Stobie and the invention of the 'Stobie pole'. It comprises a plaque and a Stobie pole. The tribute is located at SA Power Network's manufacturing plant at Angle Park, where Stobie poles have been constructed since 1956.

The commemorative plaque is made of steel and is elevated by a concrete mount. The plaque reads:

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES CYRIL STOBIE M.E.
DESIGNER OF THE STOBIE POLE
THIS POLE, MANUFACTURED IN
1924 AND ERECTED IN THE
TEMPLERS-FREELING 33KV LINE
WAS REMOVED IN 1959 AND
INCORPORATED IN THIS TRIBUTE
IN 1960.

The Stobie pole is from 1924 and is made to Stobie's original design. It comprises a cement concrete core enclosed by two steel I-beams that are secured together by tie bolts. The pole is about 10 metres high and about 50cm at the base, which tapers to about 15cm at the top. There are seven oval-shaped cutouts in the concrete between the base and middle of the pole, three of which are fully open and four partially so. The pole is hoisted from the ground by a concrete mount and rests on an angle.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- The 1924 Stobie pole,
- The commemorative plaque.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- The concrete bases,
- The angle of the 1924 pole,
- The physical location of the monument at the manufacturing plant,
- The remainder of the manufacturing plant.

HISTORY

Electricity Supply, AESCo and ETSA

The use of electricity in South Australia emerged during the second half of the nineteenth century. Originally associated with the advent of the telegraph in the 1850s, its broader applicability was widely recognised by the last decades of the century, particularly for street lighting. In 1882, the first public electricity supply bill was assented, which created the South Australian Electric Company. The venture failed to produce electricity, partly due to opposition from the South Australian Gas Company, which advanced gas as a power source.

About a decade later, private enterprise revived the attempt to establish an electricity industry in South Australia. In 1895, the South Australian Electric Light and Motive Power Company was registered and supplied electric lighting to the City of Port Adelaide and district in 1898. After overcoming initial difficulties with establishing a reliable service, it expanded its operations, securing a five-year contract with the City of Adelaide in 1899.

That same year, the company was purchased by the UK-based British Electrical Engineering Company Ltd. In 1900, its Adelaide operations were bought by the Electric Lighting and Traction Company of Australia, another UK-based company. Meanwhile, an interim powerhouse was constructed to begin supplying electricity to Adelaide while a permanent facility was constructed on Grenfell Street (now Tandanya SHP 10984).

The company's subsequent commercial and financial growth made it a viable business proposition. Recognising this opportunity, British investors purchased the company and incorporated the Adelaide Electric Supply Company Ltd (AESCo) in London in 1905. This was followed by a period of expansion that resulted in the rollout of electricity to the suburbs surrounding the city, such as Thebarton.[4] The use of electricity in South Australia was further boosted by the advent of the electric tram network and the government's creation of the Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) in 1906, which first used AESCo-generated electricity until it established its own generators.[5]

AESCo began to experience significant growth during the 1910s, reporting a rise in the number of its consumers from 4,810 in 1911 to 47,366 in 1923.[6] Further demand for supply meant AESCo began looking for a site to build a larger power station and a site at Osborne was chosen. However, the First World War halted planning and construction until 1919. On 12 August 1923, the station at Osborne came on line and by 1925 was supplying the city's entire needs, resulting in the closure of the Grenfell Street powerhouse (now Tandanya SHP 10984).[7]

While electricity had originally been largely used for lighting, by the 1920s it was being increasingly used to power industry, household appliances and heating systems. Following an Act of Parliament in 1922 that enabled AESCo to supply electricity 'in any part of the State',[8] the company began to expand beyond Adelaide and quickly became South Australia's principal electricity provider.[9]

Guaranteed electricity supplies became an important factor in the industrialisation of the State in the years following the Second World War. Supply issues caused by industrial action in the eastern states led to the nationalisation of AESCo and the formation of the Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA) in 1946. To ensure a supply of fuel for electricity generation, Premier Thomas Playford supported the establishment of the brown-coal mine at Leigh Creek (c.1943), and the establishment of the power station at Port Augusta (1954, now demolished) designed to burn the brown coal.[10] In 1997, ETSA was disaggregated and then privatised as separate companies in 1999, notably ElectraNet and ETSA Utilities, the latter becoming SA Power Networks in 2012.[11]

Osborne Power House, c.1927.

Source: SLSA B4574

Preparing to Expand into the 'Country Districts'

As AESCo was unable to supply electricity beyond the metropolitan area prior to the change in legislation in 1922,[12] some country towns, such as Gawler and Victor Harbor, built their own generators to provide a local supply, particularly for street lighting.[13] With authorisation to supply electricity across the State, AESCo chair, George Brookman advised shareholders that while demand was strong, much still needed to be devised to enable its rollout.[14]

In 1923, AESCo was able to seriously pursue its country ambitions when in March it purchased Gawler's municipal electric supply and in August the Osborne Power Station came on line, giving the company the capacity to generate and supply electricity to the country districts.[15] By the end of the year, C. A. M. Sprigg, the Board

of Directors' secretary, reported that the mains were being extended to Gawler and Mount Lofty and that arrangements were being made to extend the 'Gawler line to Freeling and Angaston'.[16]

Transmitting electricity from the Osborne Power Station to the country districts beyond Gawler was an enormous undertaking as developing the necessary infrastructure was capital intensive. One of the major impediments was the use of timber utility poles. Such poles had been used for decades within South Australia for electricity and telegraph lines, including by the company,[17] however, South Australia lacked sufficient timber and had to import it from interstate, primarily from New South Wales.[18] Compounding the problem was the brief service life of the poles due to dry rot and termites, the latter being particularly aggressive in South Australia.[19]

James Cyril Stobie and the 'Stobie Pole'

In 1924, AESCO's chief draftsperson, James Cyril Stobie devised a solution to the company's utility pole issue. Stobie, known by his peers as Cyril, was born in Parkside on 15 September 1895 to James and Alice Stobie. In 1916, Stobie acquired an associate diploma in mechanical and electrical engineering from the South Australian School of Mines and Industries. That same year, he was employed by AESCo. Frederick Wheadon, the company's director, subsequently befriended Stobie and became his mentor. In 1923, while still in his 20s, Stobie was promoted to AESCo's chief draftsperson.[20] While working for the company, he acquired his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, respectively in 1921 and 1932.[21] In addition to his engineering duties, he was also deeply immersed in AESCo's culture, evidenced by his role as the founding-editor of *Adelect*, the company's staff magazine established in 1926.

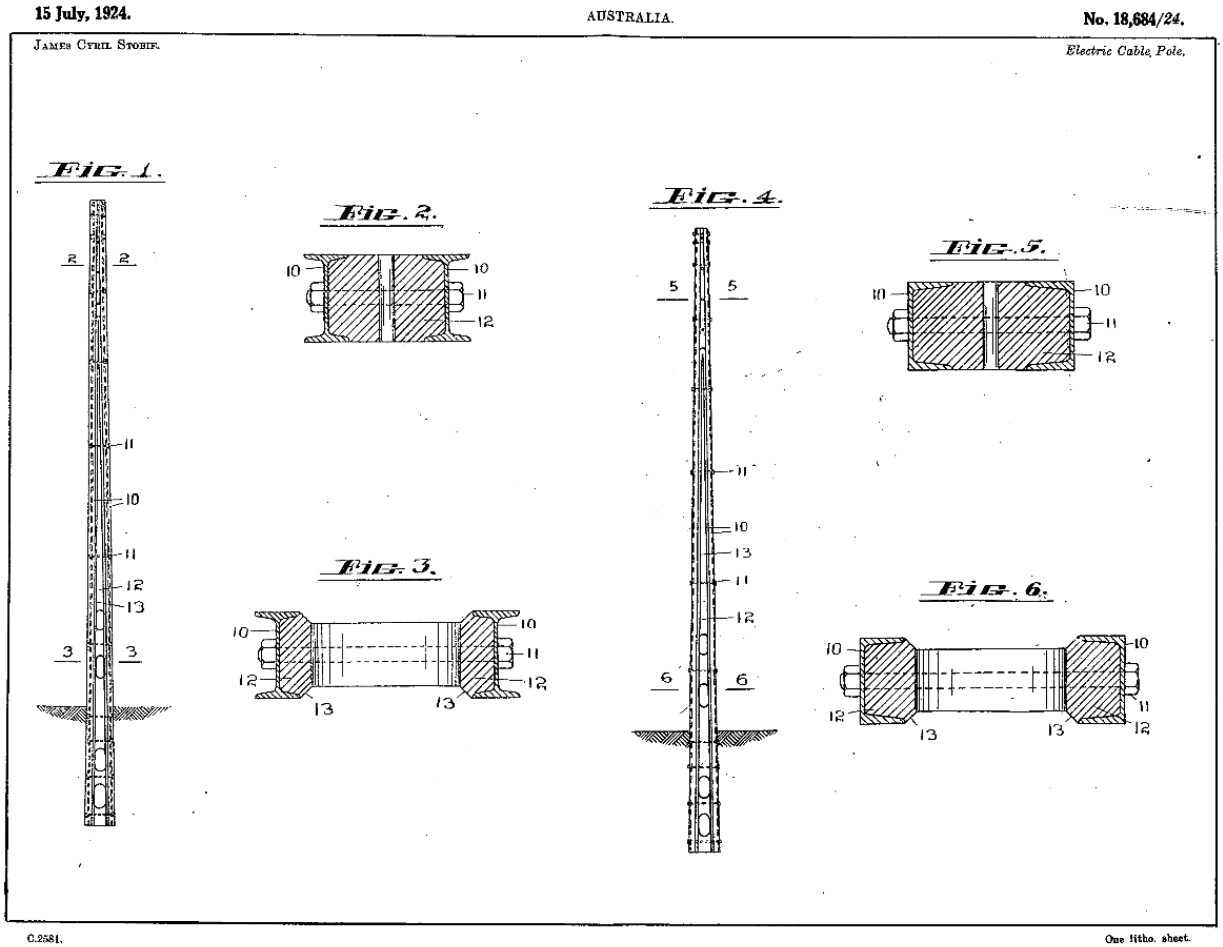
James Cyril Stobie, 1895-1953.

Source: Sir Thomas Playford ETSA Museum

Rather than build the poles out of timber, or even stronger materials like steel or concrete alone, Stobie proposed to build composite poles out of metal *and* concrete.[22] His application to the Commonwealth Department of Patents, submitted on 15 July 1924, describes his invention as an 'improved pole for carrying electric cables, telegraph and telephone wires and other purposes'.[23] It adds that this 'improved pole' consists of the following:

> two flanged beams of iron or steel, preferably rolled steel joists of I or channel section, placed one beside the other with their flanges inward and preferably at a very slight angle one with the other and held together by means of tie bolts, the space between them being filled with cement concrete.[24]

As Andrew Russack notes, the combination of steel and concrete not only resisted dry rot and termite damage, but also allowed for high load tolerances. Stobie understood that utility poles are not symmetrically loaded across the vertical axis. He was further aware of the static and dynamic loading placed on the poles, as well as the directionality of the forces in play. Ultimately, Stobie knew that the poles needed to be very strong in one direction only and thus their weight could be reduced by limiting the amount of steel required and focusing its use at points exposed to higher forces, primarily where the pole meets the ground.[25]



James Cyril Stobie's original 1924 design for an 'improved pole for carrying electric cables, telegraph and telephone wires and other purposes'.

Source: IP Australia, Commonwealth Government of Australia

Resultantly, the poles were designed to be robust and environmentally resilient, which in turn gave them a longer service life when compared to those made of timber or other materials, making them more economical over the long-term.[26]

The patent was granted in Australia in early 1925.[27] Although an employee of AESCo, Stobie submitted the patent application under his own name, making him the owner.[28] In February 1925, Stobie accepted £500 from the company in exchange for a license permitting it to produce and use the poles at no further cost.[29] The company had already been erecting the poles along South Terrace, Adelaide.[30] After the agreement, it was free to erect as many as it wanted.[31]

Expanding the Network

Equipped with the new pole design, AESCo began extending the network northwards beyond Gawler in late 1924. Manufacturing sites were established at railway station depots in Gawler, Freeling and Nuriootpa and in September, line construction using the new pole design commenced in Freeling.[32] Under the direction of Charles Wreford, six workers built and erected the new poles between Freeling and Templers.[33]

Construction advanced into 1925 and by June that year, AESCo's network had spread considerably, primarily northwards, but not exclusively so. The *Adelaide Register* noted in June that townships that had been or would soon be connected to the Osborne Power Station included 'Reynella, Salisbury, Gawler, Freeling, Angaston, Nuriootpa, Kapunda, Wasleys, Mallala, Owen, Balaklava, Gumeracha, Birdwood, Ambleside, and Mount Barker'.[34] By mid-September, around 700 steel and concrete poles had been installed between Gawler and Balaklava, and Gawler and Angaston.[35]

According to the *Adelaide Mail*, the 'new concrete-steel pole' was 'only in its experimental stage' and the company was yet to determine if they would completely replace timber poles on all new lines. Nonetheless, the article commented that the new poles had thus far 'answered all tests satisfactorily' and noted that they were being built at a site in Kilkenny to be erected along the Mount Lofty to Mount Barker line.[36]

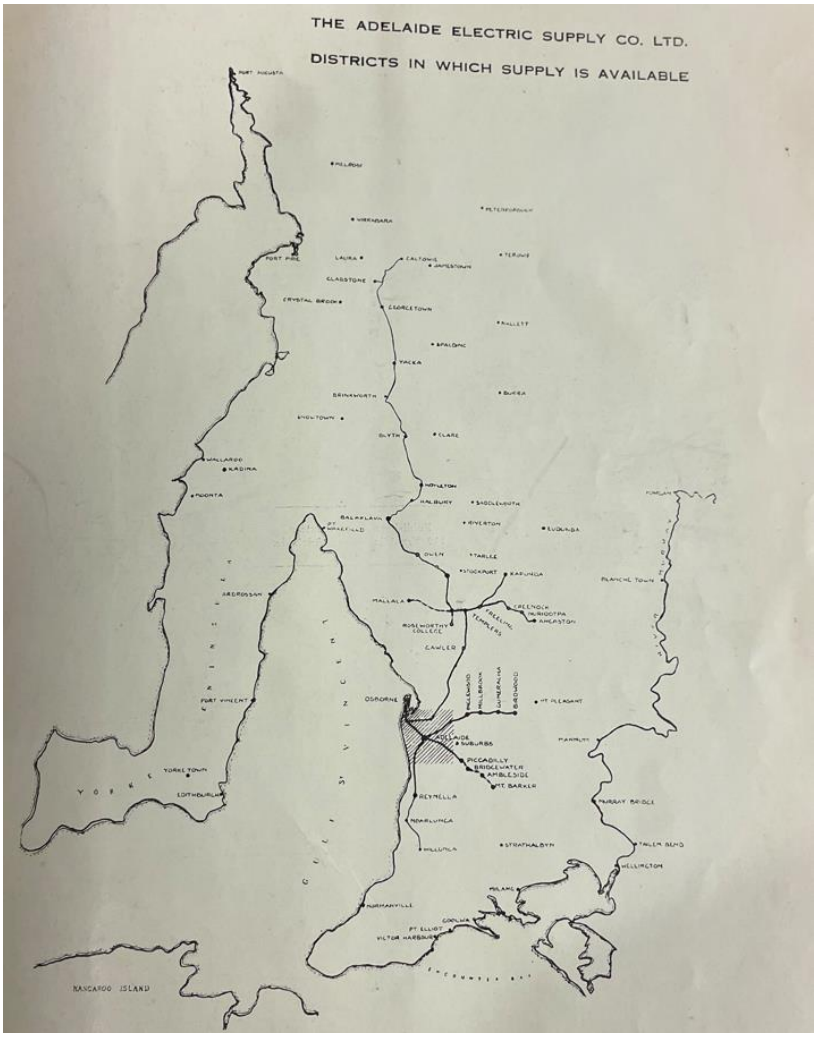
The following year, Stobie refined the design and submitted a new patent application on 19 May 1926, which was eventually granted on 4 March 1927.[37] While similar to its predecessor, several alterations were made. Most notably, the weight-saving cutouts in the concrete were removed and the base now had a pointed shape. These revisions made the poles quicker and cheaper to build and install.[38] All subsequent poles adhered to this design, accepting variations in height and width (see Photos).

By the end of 1926, AESCo's utility poles had become widely known as 'Stobie poles' and any doubts about the exclusive use of Stobie's design were dispelled. Frederick Wheadon informed the Board of Directors that the company had been making 'extensive use' of Stobie poles, which were proving to be 'suitable in every respect'. He went on to recommend that the company use them exclusively.[39] The Board agreed and AESCo thereafter primarily used Stobie poles, though timber poles were still occasionally erected in the hills.[40]

Stobie poles were soon erected everywhere across South Australia. In September 1936, writer H. A. Lindsay reflected on their pervasiveness,[41] while in 1939, anonymous author 'R. L.' observed poetically that:

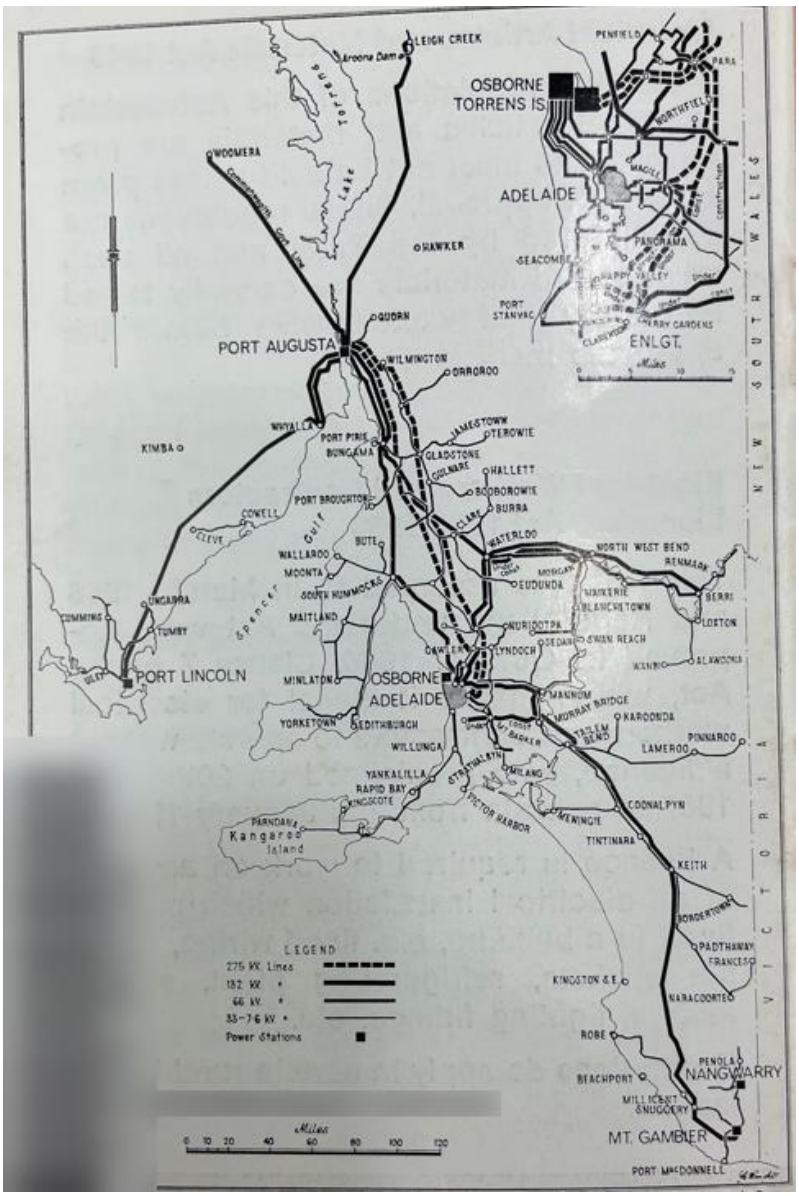
> Over hill and valley, through waterless wastes, and along flat, thickly populated city and country, there march ever-growing lines of electric conveying poles.
>
> These poles have spread throughout the length and breadth of our land, pointing their sharp finger to the sky, and weaving over our heads a cross-cross pattern of sometimes dark, sometimes gleaming, wires conveying light where once only darkness reigned, unlimited power where once only the strength of man's labor [sic] sufficed.[42]

Within 15 years, Stobie poles had come to be identified as a ubiquitous part of the South Australian landscape, as had their role in the wholesale electrification of South Australia, a process that continued well into the 1960s.



The extent of AESCo's network as of March 1927, showing it has reached Caltowie to the north and Willunga to the South.

Source: *Adelect*, March 1927



ETSA's transmission system by the end of the 1960s.

Source: *ETSA: In the Service of South Australia* (1969)

Stobie's Legacy

James Cyril Stobie died on 15 August 1953 at the age of 57. He was survived by his wife Rita and their four children and was buried at Centennial Park cemetery in Pasadena.[43]

Stobie's colleagues from AESCo and ETSA immediately mourned his passing and continued to recognise his contributions years afterwards.[44] On 2 October 1960, ETSA unveiled a tribute to Stobie at their Stobie pole manufacturing plant located in Angle Park.[45]

The tribute was designed by Brian Lewis from ETSA's Civil Design Branch.[46] Its main feature was a Stobie pole originally installed in the 1924 Templers to Freeling line. The pole was raised on an angle atop a base and was accompanied by a commemorative plaque. The unveiling ceremony was conducted by J. R. Brookman, an executive and friend, who recalled a limerick about Stobie he had sent to AESCo's manager in 1927:

There was a young fellow named Stobie
On the subject of poles remarked, "O be
Blowed to the wood, it never has stood –
It suffers from termites and fungustobie.
If you want a good pole to set in a hole
And scorn every wind that may blow-be,
Take two lengths of steel joist
Fill the concrete while moist
And bolt 'em with bolts a la Stobie".[47]

Guests at the unveiling included Stobie's wife Rita, his sisters, son Peter and daughter-in-law Margaret. Afterwards, Rita commented that the family 'all felt the plaque and mounted pole made a dignified tribute to Cyril's memory'.[48]

Unveiling the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie, 2 October 1960.

Source: *Adelect*, January 1961

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie as it originally appeared in 1960.

Source: Invitation to Unveiling, 1960; SA Power Networks (Courtesy Brian 'Doc' Docking)

Stobie's colleagues acknowledged that the Stobie pole best represented his contribution to South Australia's electricity industry. This recognition was echoed in 2003, when Andrew Russack, then a manager for ETSA Utilities, commented that 'Stobie's contribution to South Australia cannot be overestimated'.[49]

Although Stobie poles were integral to the electrification of South Australia, they have also been derided for their perceived ugliness.[50] In the 1960s, Don Dunstan explored the cost of their removal as, in the words of the *Bulletin*, the poles 'disfigure the settled areas of South Australia'.[51] While prohibitively expensive to overhaul the network, Dunstan's apparent disdain for Stobie poles is likely why West Lakes was developed without them.[52]

While the robustness of Stobie poles has made them a notorious roadside hazard to motorists in the event of vehicle collisions,[53] Stobie poles continue to be a vital part of South Australia's electricity infrastructure. As of 2024, there are around 650,000 poles, covering about 70,000km of the network. In comparison, underground transmission covers only 20,000km.[54] Completely undergrounding the lines could cost between $40-60 billion.[55] Stobie poles therefore continue to be economical and durable means of supplying electricity, each pole on average lasting around eighty years.[56]

The historical and cultural importance of the Stobie pole is reflected by their entry within the *Wakefield Companion to South Australia*[57] and addition to Bank SA's Heritage Icons list in 2002.[58] Moreover, the artistic potential of the Stobie pole has been embraced by local councils and they are often a canvas for artists and residents.[59]

July 2024 marks the hundredth anniversary of the Stobie pole. This milestone has attracted media coverage about their place in South Australia's history and culture.[60] SA Power Networks also arranged a series of events at Angle Park to commemorate the occasion, led by Brian 'Doc' Docking.[61] The Tribute to John Cyril Stobie has featured in these events. Around 2011, the 1924 pole was temporarily removed from its original base and then placed elsewhere at the plant alongside another pole reflecting Stobie's 1926 design. Shortly afterwards, a replica was then created for the new location, and the 1924 pole was restored to its original place.[62]

Chronology

Year	Event
1882	First public electricity supply bill is assented.
1895	**James Cyril Stobie is born.** South Australian Electric Light and Motive Power Company is registered and begins discussions to supply electric light to the municipality of Port Adelaide.
1898	First (temporary) powerhouse is established at William Marston's shop on the corner of St Vincent and Lipson Streets, Port Adelaide.
1899	Nile Street Powerhouse begins operating. Electrical Engineer F. W. H. Wheadon arrives in July bringing the knowledge and expertise to successfully expand the State's electricity network.

The contract to supply electric lighting to the City of Adelaide is secured.

UK-based Electrical Engineering Company of Australia Ltd purchases South Australian Electric Light and Motive Company.

1900 Electric Lighting and Traction Company Ltd purchase all of Adelaide's electricity operations.

1901 Powerhouse on Grenfell Street (Tandanya) becomes operational.

1902 First suburban power supply provided to North Adelaide via underground cables.

1905 Adelaide Electric Supply Company Ltd (AESCo) is incorporated in London and purchases Electric Lighting and Traction Company of Australia Ltd operations.

1907 Nile Street Powerhouse is closed.

1914 Consumers of electricity increased from 585 in 1904 to 13,192 in 1914.

1916 James Cyril Stobie is employed by AESCo.

1919 Land reclamation and construction of the Osborn power station begins.

1921 The control and management of AESCo is transferred from London to Adelaide on 1 March.

1922 The *Adelaide Electric Supply Company's Act 1922* is assented, enabling the company to expand outside of Adelaide, including into 'country districts'.

1924 James Cyril Stobie lodges his first patent for an 'improved pole for carrying electric cables, telegraph and telephone wires and other purposes'.

AESCo commences its expansion into the country districts in November.

1925 AESCo's expansion continues and by June has reached 'Reynella, Salisbury, Gawler, Freeling, Angaston, Nuriootpa, Kapunda, Wasleys, Mallala, Owen, Balaklava, Gumeracha, Birdwood, Ambleside, and Mount Barker'. About 700 poles are erected.

1926 James Cyril Stobie redesigns his 'improved pole' and lodges a new patent. It is granted the following year.

Stobie pole is embraced by AESCo as its preferred pole type.

1936 The Stobie is by now the only kind of pole manufactured and used by AESCo.

1946 AESCo is nationalised by the state government and is reconfigured as the Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA).

1951 ETSA begins to establish a manufacturing plant at Angle Park, then a part of Woodville Gardens.

1953 James Cyril Stobie passes away at the age of 58.

1955 ETSA establishes a pole production facility at its new manufacturing plant at Angle Park.

1960 2 October, the Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is unveiled at ETSA's Angle Park facility.

c.2011 The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie is temporarily relocated at the site. It is returned to its original location not long after once a replica is produced.

1994 Legislation converts the Electricity Trust of South Australia into ETSA Corporation.

c.1997 Demolition of the Osborne Power Station commences.

1998 ETSA Corporation is disaggregated into separate business components. ElectraNet SA and ETSA Utilities are created in the process.

1999 The state government privatises ETSA.

2002 Bank SA adds the 'Stobie Pole' to its Heritage Icons List.

2012 ETSA Utilities becomes SA Power Networks.

2024 SA Power Networks hosts multiple events to celebrate the centenary anniversary of the Stobie pole's invention.

By the start of 2024, there are around 650,000 Stobie poles situated throughout South Australia.

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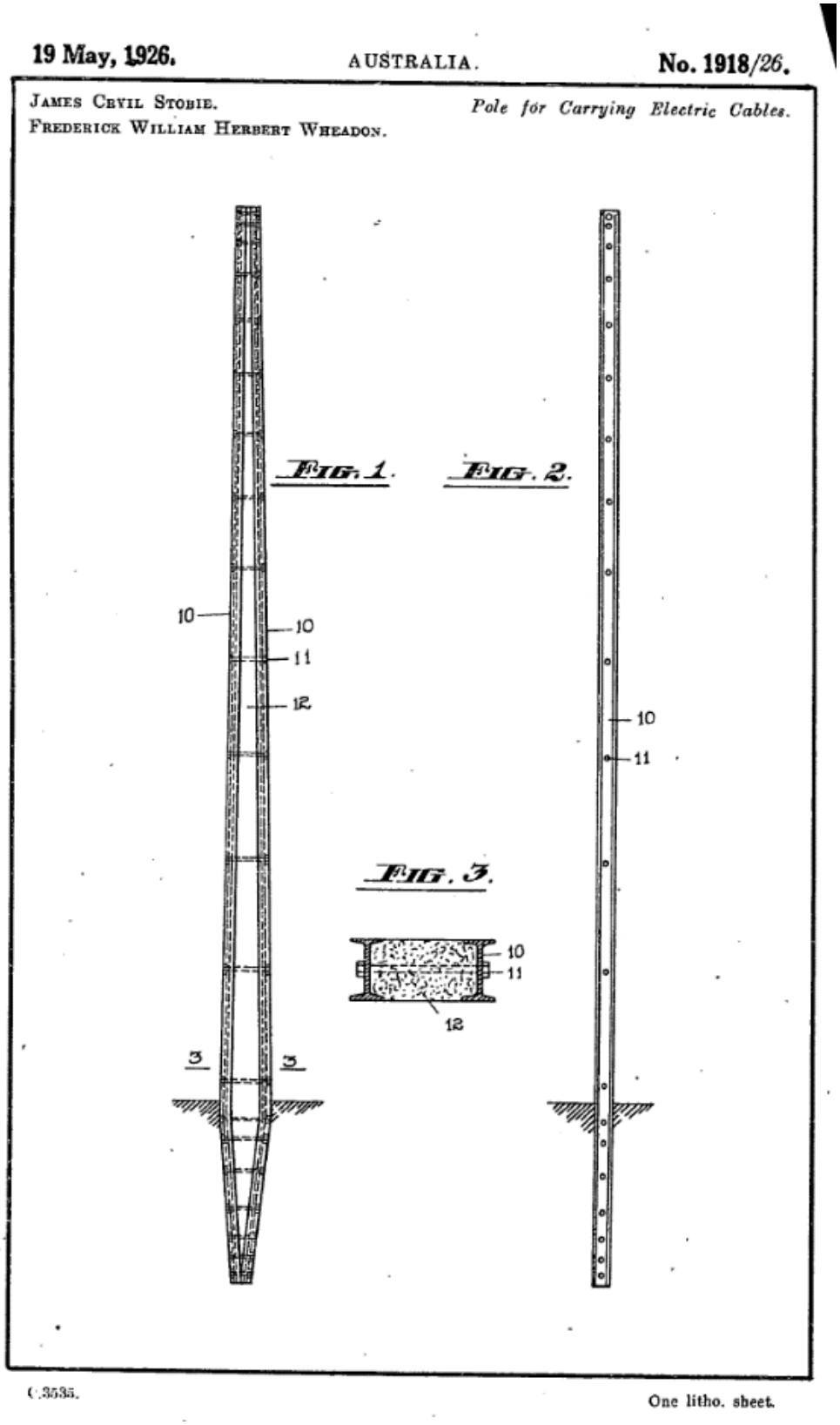
SITE RECORD

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	**PLACE NO.:**	26588

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	A tribute to James Cyril Stobie comprising a 1924 Stobie pole and a commemorative plaque.	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1924 (original Stobie pole); 1960 (tribute)	
REGISTER STATUS:	Identified, 5 August 2021 [Date of Provisional Entry]	
CURRENT USE:	Commemorative tribute, 1960 -	
DESIGNER	Brian Lewis	
BUILDER:	Electricity Trust of South Australia, 1960	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	
LOCATION:	**Street No.:**	500
	Street Name:	Grand Junction Road
	Town/Suburb:	Angle Park
	Post Code:	5010
LAND DESCRIPTION:	**Title Reference:**	CT 6170/399, D72468 A207
	Hundred:	Yatala
MAP REFERENCE	-34.852815, 138.560756	



19 May, 1926. AUSTRALIA. No. 1918/26.

JAMES CEVIL STOBIE.
FREDERICK WILLIAM HERBERT WHEADON.

Pole for Carrying Electric Cables.

FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

10
10
11
12
3
3
10
11
12
10
11

C.3535.

One litho. sheet.

Stobie's redesigned pole submitted to the Department of Patents in 1926.

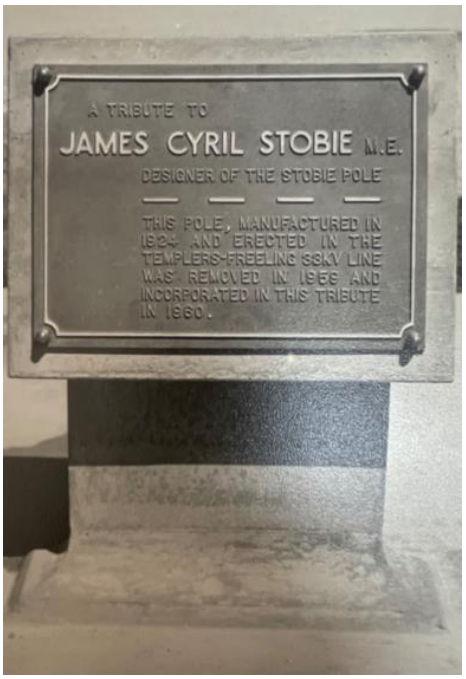
Source: IP Australia, Commonwealth Government of Australia

PHOTOS

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	**PLACE NO.:**	26588

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie at the Angle Park manufacturing plant before its official unveiling, 1960.

Source: Invitation to Unveiling, 1960; SA Power Networks (Courtesy Brian 'Doc' Docking)



The commemorative plaque at the Angle Park manufacturing plant before its official unveiling, 1960.

Source: Invitation to Unveiling, 1960; SA Power Networks (Courtesy Brian 'Doc' Docking)

PHOTOS

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	**PLACE NO.:**	26588

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie after the 1924 pole and the plaque were temporarily moved in 2011 (left); the same site featuring a reproduction of the 1924 pole in 2024 (right).

Sources: Wikimedia Commons (user Mikie 121), reproduced per CC0 1.0 (left); DEW Files (right)

PHOTOS

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	PLACE NO.:	26588

***All the following photos were taken by DEW staff on 16 May 2024.**

The Tribute to James Cyril Stobie showing the 1924 Stobie pole and the commemorative plaque, both resting on their original concrete bases.

Image showing the angular placement of the 1924 Stobie pole.

PHOTOS

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	PLACE NO.:	26588

Frontal view of the 1924 Stobie pole showing oval cutouts.

Rear of the 1924 Stobie pole showing tie bolts.

Original concrete base of the 1924 Stobie pole.

Righthand side of the 1924 Stobie pole showing one of the steel beams.

PHOTOS

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	**PLACE NO.:**	26588

Commemorative plaque on its original concrete base.

SITE PLAN

NAME:	Tribute to James Cyril Stobie	**PLACE NO.:**	26588

Tribute to James Cyril Stobie, 500 Grand Junction Road, Angle Park, CT 6170/399, D72468 A207, Hundred of Yatala.

N ↑

LEGEND

Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)

Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

[1] All the results are for State Heritage Places (SHPs) that feature 'utilities' within their subject index.
[2] It is important to note that there are almost certainly more places related to non-water related utilities in the Register at the state and local levels, as not all will have 'utilities' featured in their subject index. The places related to AESCo and ETSA listed above, for instance, demonstrate there are more places related to electricity that 'utilities' does not capture. Nonetheless, even when subjects are searched for individually, for example 'electricity' or 'gas', the number of places remains relatively low.
[3] Much of this information has been sourced from Monument Australia.
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[4] Linn, *ETSA: The Story of Electricity,* pp.27-29.
[5] See Colin Seymour, 'The Port Adelaide Tramways 1879-1935', *Trolley Wire* No.262 (August 1995): pp.6-9; Linn, *Story of Electricity,* p.28; 'The Municipal Tramways Trust: Formation of the Municipal Tramways Trust', Tramway Museum, St Kilda, SA.
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[7] Linn, *Story of Electricity,* pp.31-32.
[8] *The Adelaide Electric Supply Company's Act, 1922,* Private Act (SA).
[9] Linn, *Story of Electricity,* pp.36-38 and p.42.
[10] Nic Klaassen, 'The Battle for Leigh Creek', in *Playford's South Australia: Essays on the History of South Australia 1933-1968*, Eds. Bernard O'Neil, Judith Raftery, and Kerrie Round (Adelaide: Association of Professional Historians, 1996); David C Rich, 'Tom's Vision? Playford and Industrialisation', in *Playford's South Australia*.
[11] See Rob Linn, *Pathways for Power: The Story of ElectraNet SA* (Cherry Gardens, SA: Historical Consultants Pty for ElectraNet, 2000), pp.77-90; and 'SA Power Networks', Australian Energy Regulator, 2023.
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[12] See 'Increased Business: Electric Light Co.'s Report', *Mail* (Adelaide), 2 December 1922, p.8; Linn, *ETSA: Story of Electricity,* pp.36-38.
[13] Gawler established a municipal electric lighting scheme in 1912. The Victor Harbor Electric Supply Company was founded in 1916 and a power house was established in 1919. It was taken over by the Harbor Electricity Co. in 1923, which erected a new power house around that time. See 'Gawler Electric Light: Official Inauguration', *Evening Journal* (Adelaide), 15 August 1912, p.1; Donovan and Associates, Victor Harbor Heritage Survey, Volume 1: Survey overview (Blackwood: self-published, 1997), p.47; 'Electric Lighting: Service at Victor Harbor', *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 9 September 1919, p.9; 'Step Back in History on Old Port Walk', *Times* (Victor Harbor), 11 January 1994, p.8.
[14] George Brookman quoted in 'Adelaide Electric Supply Company', 1 December 1922, p.12.
[15] 'Gawler's Electric Supply: Sold to the Adelaide Electric Supply Company', *Bunyip* (Gawler), 16 March 1923, p.2; 'The Electric Supply Transfer', *Bunyip* (Gawler), 4 May 1923, p.2; Linn, *Pathways for Power*, p.17.
[16] Sprigg, 'Report of the Directors', p.3 (of report).
[17] Linn, *Pathways for Power*, p.17; Andrew Russack, 'The Stobie Pole' (paper presented at Distribution 2003, 7th International Energy Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exhibition, Port Melbourne, 2003): p.2.
[18] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.2.
[19] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.2; Linn, *ETSA: Story of Electricity,* p.39.
[20] Rob Linn, 'James Cyril Stobie (1895-1953)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre for Biography, Australian National University.
https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stobie-james-cyril-11776 Accessed 20 March 2024.
[21] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.7.
[22] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', pp.2-3.

[23] James Cyril Stobie, 'An improved pole for carrying electric cables, telegraph and telephone wires and other purposes', 1924. Patent No. 18684/24, Department of Patents, Commonwealth of Australia, lodged 15 July 1924, accepted 16 February 1925.
[24] Stobie, 'An improved pole'.
[25] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', pp.2-3.
[26] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', pp.2-3; Linn, *ETSA: Story of Electricity,* p.39.
[27] Stobie, 'An improved pole'.
[28] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.3.
[29] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.3.
[30] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.3.
[31] As Stobie still held the patent, he could do what he wanted with it. In April 1925, he formed a syndicate with colleagues Frederick Wheadon and John Brookman and submitted patent applications overseas, including in the United States and United Kingdom.[31] He and the others hoped it would be embraced as the pole of choice around the world. Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.5; Linn, *ETSA: Story of Electricity,* p.38.
[32] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.3.
[33] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.3.
[34] 'The Electrical Age: A Visit to Osborne', *Register* (Adelaide), 5 June 1925, p.7.
[35] 'Concrete Poles: New Electric Carriers', *Mail* (Adelaide), 12 September 1925, p.3.
[36] 'Concrete Poles', 12 September 1925, p.3.
[37] James Cyril Stobie and Frederick William Herbert Wheadon, 'An improved pole for carrying electric cables, telegraph and telephone wires and other purposes', 1926. Patent No. 1918/26, Department of Patents, Commonwealth of Australia, lodged 19 May 1926, accepted 4 March 1927; Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', pp.4-5.
[38] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', pp.4-5.
[39] Frederick Wheadon quoted in Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.4.
[40] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.4.
[41] H. A. Lindsay, 'Discovery and Invention in Our State', *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 19 September 1936, p.11.
[42] R. L., 'Poles to Carry Light and Withstand the Ravages of Time – and White Ants', *Mail* (Adelaide), 14 January 1939, p.25.
[43] Linn, 'James Cyril Stobie (1895-1953)', Australian Dictionary of Biography.
[44] 'Death of Mr. J. C. Stobie', *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 17 August 1953, p.2.
[45] 'A Tribute to James Cyril Stobie', *Adelect*, January 1961, p.15. Construction of the new manufacturing plant commenced in 1955, but production did not begin until October 1956. Alan Bates, 'Woodville Gardens', *Adelect*, September 1959, p.4.
[45] 'A Tribute to James Cyril Stobie', p.15.
[46] 'A Tribute to James Cyril Stobie', p.15.
[47] J. R. Brookman's poem reproduced in 'A Tribute to James Cyril Stobie', p.15.
[48] Letter from Rita Stobie to C. R. S. Colyer, 5 November 1960.
[49] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.8. Similarly, historian Rob Linn, the author of ETSA's official history, stated in 1996 that 'the Stobie pole was, without doubt, central to the speedy expansion of AESCo's supply'. Linn, *Story of Electricity*, p. 39.
[50] Patricia Sumerling and Wilfrid Prest. 'Stobie Poles', in *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*, Prest, Wilfrid, Round, Kerrie, and Fort, Carol (eds.). Kent Town, South Australia: Wakefield Press, 2001: pp.517-518.
[51] 'Winds of Reform', *The Bulletin* 90:4615 (17 August 1968), p.22.
[52] West Lakes was 'one of the first developments to have underground electrical supply and telephone connections'. 'West Lakes, South Australia', Engineering Heritage Australia, 2024. https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Place:West_Lakes Accessed 15 April 2024.
[53] See C. N. Kloeden, A. J. Mclean, M. R. J. Baldock and A. J. T. Cockington, Severe and Fatal Car Crashes Due to Roadside Hazards: A Report to the Motor Accident Commission (Adelaide: Motor Accident Commission, 1999), p.6.
[54] Thomas Kelsall, 'Burying SA Powerlines to cost "Between $40 to $60 Billion"', InDaily, 31 March 2023.
https://www.indaily.com.au/news/2023/03/31/burying-sa-powerlines-to-cost-between-40-to-60-billion Accessed 23 April 2024.

[55] Kelsall, 'Burying SA Powerlines'.
[56] 'The Stobie Pole: A Century of Service', SA Power Networks, 2024.
[57] Sumerling and Wilfrid Prest. 'Stobie Poles', pp. 517-518.
[58] Russack, 'The Stobie Pole', p.1.
[59] This derives from the pioneering efforts of Ann Newmarch and the City of Prospect in 1983. Sara Garcia, 'Stobie poles are a South Australian icon, but how did they come about?', ABC News, 31 March 2023. https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-31/what-is-sa-icon-the-stobie-pole/101755816 Accessed 23 April 2024.
[60] For example, see 'SA icon, the Stobie pole, turns 100', *Stock Journal*, 6 April 2024. https://www.stockjournal.com.au/story/8581786/sa-icon-the-stobie-pole-turns-100/ Accessed 23 April 2024; Kody Cook, 'Celebrating 100 years of the Stobie pole', *Utility*, 5 April 2024. https://utilitymagazine.com.au/celebrating-100-years-of-the-stobie-pole/ Accessed 24 April 2024; '100 years for a SA icon', *InDaily*, 5 April 2024. https://www.indaily.com.au/news/insider/2024/04/05/100-years-for-a-sa-icon-wine-has-gone-to-the-dogs-digging-up-the-colonel-word-of-the-week Accessed 24 April2 024.
[61] Including site tours and a 'birthday party'. '2024 The Year of the Stobie Pole', SA Power Networks, 4 April 2024. https://www.sapowernetworks.com.au/data/318096/2024-the-year-of-the-stobie-pole/ Accessed 23 April 2024; 'Stobie Pole party planned as iconic part of SA's history marks 100th year', Glam Adelaide, 14 April 2024. https://glamadelaide.com.au/stobie-pole-party-planned-as-iconic-part-of-sas-history-marks-100th-year/ Accessed 23 April 2024; 'Stobie Pole Centenary Year: Pole Manufacturing Facility Tours', South Australia's History Festival, 2024. https://festival.history.sa.gov.au/events/stobie-pole-centenary-year-pole-manufacturing-facility-tours/ Accessed 23 April 2024.
[62] Brian 'Doc' Docking, interview with the author, 16 May 2024.