

Mines can tap into power surge

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THE region north of Port Augusta will have more opportunities to develop, with a \$270m electricity powerline now operational.

The line, built by Electra-Net, created nearly 300 construction jobs at its peak during a two-year project.

The line will supply power to the Prominent Hill and Carrapateena copper mines owned by SA's OZ Minerals.

"This project is the first significant transmission line in terms of length and size that we have built in about 30 years and it's the biggest we have constructed for a single customer," said Electra-Net chief executive Steve Masters, pictured.

"OZ Minerals now have direct access to the main electricity grid." ElectraNet, which aims to build a \$2.4bn powerline to NSW with TransGrid, completed commissioning of the line this month.

OZ Minerals chief executive Andrew Cole said the mines would now have secure, reliable and affordable power.

"What's really pleasing to see is that in addition to enabling our potential future expansion aspirations in the region, construction of this power line has brought additional power capacity to the region for others to tap into as well," Mr Cole said.

The region already has wind and solar projects but a transmission line with spare capacity would be essential for further investment.