

# MEDIA STATEMENT

## City Power Closing in on Theft and Vandalism in Lombardy East

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 12:30

### CITY POWER RAISES ALARM OVER ESCALATING VANDALISM IN LOMBARDY AREAS, WITH ARRESTS IMMINENT

City Power would like to send a stern warning to those involved in theft and vandalism of our infrastructure in the Lombardy East and surrounding areas, as we are currently making headway in our efforts to dismantle what appears to be the work of a coordinated organised crime group that is hellbent on sabotaging our operations.

Between March and the second week of August 2025, 28 cases of theft and vandalism were recorded, with some incidents occurring within days of repairs being completed. The latest incident was recorded on Tuesday, 26 August 2025 in Lombardy East, where yet another transformers was vandalised.

Below is a full list of incidents recorded since March 2025, which coincide with some of the prolonged outages in the area:

- 13 March 2025 – Cable theft (60m) at 42 King Edward, Lombardy East
- 19 March 2025 – Cable theft (970m) at 88 Milton Road, Lombardy East
- 19 March 2025 – Cable theft (975m) at 80–82 Chaucer, Lombardy East
- 20 March 2025 – Cable theft (52m) at 52 Goethe Road, Lombardy East
- 20 March 2025 – Cable theft (43m) at 41–44 Wordsworth, Lombardy East
- 23 March 2025 – Cable theft (39m) at 51 Wordsworth Street, Lombardy East
- 24 March 2025 – Cable theft (52m) at 62 Shelly Road, Lombardy East
- 24 March 2025 – Cable theft (39m) at 39 Wordsworth, Lombardy East
- 27 March 2025 – Cable theft (35m) at 76 Koats Road, Lombardy East
- 2 April 2025 – Cable theft (55m) at 81 Wordsworth, Lombardy East
- 2 April 2025 – Cable theft (100m) at River Park Drive, Lombardy East
- 2 April 2025 – Cable theft (13m) at 75 Byron Street, Lombardy East
- 10 May 2025 – Indoor transformer vandalised at Wellington Road, Lombardy East
- 31 June 2025 – Indoor transformer vandalised at 39/71 King Edward, Lombardy East
- 3 June 2025 – Stolen cables at 72 Shakespeare Road, Lombardy East
- 5 June 2025 – Stolen cables at 52/54 Heine Road, Lombardy East
- 10 July 2025 – Stolen cables at Tennyson Road, Lombardy East

19 June 2025 – Stolen cables at 57 Chaucer Road, Lombardy East  
16 June 2025 – Stolen cables at 253 Wellington Road, Lombardy East  
16 June 2025 – Stolen cables at 251 Keats Road, Lombardy East  
01 July 2025 – Stolen cables at 54 Milton Road, Lombardy East  
08 July 2025 – Stolen cables at 314 Marlborough, Lombardy East  
22 July 2025 – Stolen cables at 40 Milton Road, Lombardy East  
16 July 2025 – Stolen cables at 40 Byron Road, Lombardy East  
24 July 2025 – Stolen cables at 295 Wellington Road, Lombardy East  
17 July 2025 – Stolen cables at 83 Wordsworth Road, Lombardy East  
04 August 2025 – Two transformers vandalised at 5 King Edward Road, Lombardy East.

Similar incidents have also been recorded in recent weeks in nearby areas such as Bramley, Rembrandt, Kew, and Lyndhurst among others.

The brazen nature of these crimes is not only plunging communities into repeated and prolonged outages but is also inflicting severe financial strain on City Power. Replacing vandalised transformers and other high-voltage equipment can cost between R800 000 and R1.2 million per unit, excluding labour and installation costs - and sourcing these components is becoming increasingly difficult due to high demand.

We are working closely with the SAPS, private security companies, and our internal security teams to track down the perpetrators, which may include some of our employees and contractors. Early indications point to possible involvement of internal collaborators in this scourge of theft and vandalism, which we are rounding off.

Earlier this month, City Power met with the local Community Policing Forum (CPF), private security companies, SAPS representatives, and community leaders to develop joint strategies for securing the area's infrastructure. Measures under discussion included increased patrols, infrastructure adoption by communities, verification of work credentials, and expanded surveillance.

While our security teams are doing their best to combat these criminal acts, the sheer size of our network - spanning about 20 000km across Johannesburg - makes constant monitoring a challenge. That's why we have made a call to residents, neighbourhood watch groups, street committees, and civil society formations to assist us with monitoring and safeguarding nearby transformers, mini-substations, and switching equipment, and to immediately report suspicious activity to City Power on 0800 116 166. We also urge communities to demand valid job cards and permits from anyone claiming to work on City Power infrastructure.

The protection of our infrastructure is a shared responsibility. We urge all stakeholders to join hands with us in rooting out this criminal activity to keep the lights on for our communities. We sincerely apologise to all customers affected by these outages and thank those who have stepped forward to assist in safeguarding our electricity network.

**ISSUED BY CITY POWER**

**Isaac Mangena, General Manager**

**Department of Public Relations and Communication**