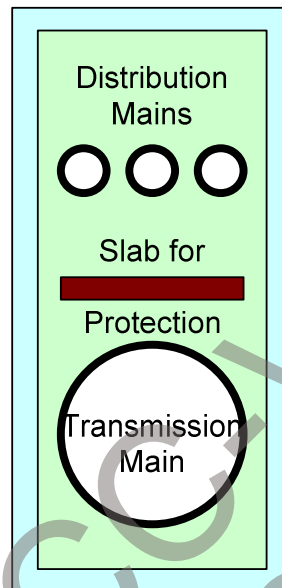


Figure 31: Schematic Illustration of Utility Stacking



5.3.2.2 Stacking of Electricity and Telecommunications Cables

Telecommunication cables are usually routed through ducts and as such they are easily accessed via manholes. Access to stacked electricity cables is also easily achieved as the top cables may be slewed temporarily to gain access to the lower cables.

Stacking of conduit for cables does not present a significant challenge to manhole and chamber construction in telecommunications applications. Chambers can be configured and positioned in such a manner to avoid clashes. Larger chambers can be “passed through” by ducts, and present no significant problems.

Electricity cable manholes are not commonly used as cables are not routinely accessed after construction and commissioning. Where joint boxes are used, they are generally small and can be positioned to avoid clashes.

5.3.3 Easements

A utility easement is an easement, which gives a utility the right to use and access a specific area of a property. A property owner grants a utility easement to the SAUP to extend the utility into their property. The practice of utility easements is widely practised in the USA, England and Australia. Figure 32 illustrates an example of utilities easement.

Easements are particularly effective in narrow width right of ways where transmission mains are unlikely to be located. Easements are also effective when a utility needs to be diverted outside the right of way boundary for a short distance.