

Fact Sheet

Permission to disturb a site of a serious electricity works accident

10 June 2016



WHAT

Section 63U of the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (the Act) makes it an offence to disturb or interfere with the site of a serious electricity works accident before it has been inspected by an inspector except:

- ▼ To make it safe, or
- ▼ With the permission of an inspector.

Serious electricity works accident means an accident in which electricity works are involved, and as a consequence of which a person dies or suffers permanent disability, is hospitalised, receives treatment from a health care professional or is unable to attend work for any period of time.



WHY

IPART is the safety and reliability regulator for NSW electricity networks, effective as of 4 June 2015.

The overall objective of these powers is:

- ▼ To maintain safety standards within electricity networks to the benefit of employees, customers, and the community, and
- ▼ To maintain electricity supply reliability standards set by the Government.



HOW

IPART has set up a 24/7 hotline for network operators to contact inspectors regarding serious electricity works accidents.

Networks should phone **(02) 8001 6492** to contact the inspector on duty.

An inspector may grant permission to disturb the site over the phone, or may decide an inspection is required prior to granting permission.

Note that the network operator is responsible for the safety of its personnel and other persons accessing the sites of serious electricity works accidents. IPART and inspectors appointed by IPART accept no responsibility or liability for any harm or injury to any person granted permission to disturb or interfere with the site of a serious electricity works accident.

Note that networks must also undertake sufficient investigative action to provide IPART with accurate and detailed information about the circumstances of the accident, in line with the requirements of IPART's Electricity Network Reporting Manual.



WHO

There are eight electricity network operators in NSW that are currently subject to IPART's new regulatory powers:

- ▼ ActewAGL
- ▼ Ausgrid
- ▼ Directlink
- ▼ Endeavour Energy
- ▼ Essential Energy
- ▼ Lord Howe Island
- ▼ Sydney Trains
- ▼ TransGrid