

Fact Sheet - IPART's role in responding to electricity network safety incidents

1 November 2016



WHAT

IPART is the safety and reliability regulator for NSW electricity networks.

Electricity network operators are responsible for network safety and reliability. Our role is to hold each utility accountable for taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the design, construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of its network is safe.

In order to achieve this, electricity network operators must have a comprehensive safety management system implemented across their network.

IPART monitors and responds to serious network safety incidents by seeking information about the cause of the incident to assess:

- ▼ the adequacy of the network safety management system and
- ▼ whether the safety management system is being properly implemented.



WHY

Monitoring safety incidents helps IPART identify any possible gaps in the safety management system or failures to properly implement the safety management system.

It allows IPART to take appropriate steps to hold the network operator accountable for identifying and addressing risks.



WHO

Electricity network operators in NSW (including Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy, Essential Energy, Sydney Trains and TransGrid) are responsible for investigating and reporting to IPART on network safety incidents, including serious electricity works accidents.

IPART has appointed suitably experienced IPART employees as inspectors, as well as certain SafeWork employees. This cooperative arrangement allows IPART and SafeWork to coordinate responses to serious electricity works accidents.

Inspectors appointed by IPART have powers to inspect and investigate safety incidents related to electricity networks.



HOW

Serious electricity works accidents may be inspected by appointed inspectors to identify the cause of the incident and aid IPART in assessing whether there are any possible gaps in a network operator's safety management system or in its implementation.

Reports from the network will also be used to inform IPART's view.

Where further information is required, IPART will request that further investigations into the incident be undertaken, or require the network to provide additional reports.