



Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
New South Wales

Electricity networks reporting manual – Bushfire risk management reporting



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Amendment record

Issue	Date issued	Amendments made
ENRM - original	10 June 2016	First release of final Reporting Manual.
ENRM v2	September 2016	Amendments on p 2, Table 1.1, and formatting.
ENRM v3	November 2016	Inclusion of Ms Catherine Jones as a Committee member. Various further amendments made unrelated to bushfire risk management reporting.
ENRM v3	December 2016	No amendments made relevant to bushfire risk management reporting.
ENRM v4	May 2017	Addition of Ms Deborah Cope as a Committee member, replacing Ms Catherine Jones. Various further amendments made unrelated to bushfire risk management reporting.
ENRM – Bushfire risk management reporting	October 2017	Separate Reporting Manuals published. Inserting Chapter 1 -The purpose and status of this reporting manual. Minor wording changes to improve clarity.



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1 The purpose and status of this reporting manual

This Reporting Manual and other Reporting Manuals are issued by IPART. IPART will review and amend these Reporting Manuals from time to time.

Licence conditions for the licensed Electricity Network Operators (ENOs) require that the licence holder complies with any Reporting Manuals issued by the Tribunal.¹ Although no regulatory requirement to comply with a Reporting Manual exists for non-licensed ENOs, IPART expects that all ENOs will comply with the Reporting Manuals where applicable to their specific reporting obligations. Each document may not apply to all ENOs, and this is specified where relevant.

The reporting requirements specified in these Reporting Manuals do not replace any requirements identified in licence conditions, legislation, statutory instruments or codes that apply to ENOs. Compliance with Reporting Manuals is required in addition to, not in substitution for, compliance with other applicable obligations.

The information gathered through the reporting arrangements outlined in this document will allow IPART to:

- ▼ determine whether ENOs are consistently and effectively meeting statutory obligations,
- ▼ identify immediate risks and long term trends, and
- ▼ identify trends that signify emerging issues across the industry with a view to developing safety measures or supporting industry safety initiatives where appropriate.

A review of the reporting requirements will be conducted periodically to accommodate any changes to statutory requirements and licence conditions.

IPART has also issued Audit Guidelines to guide networks on how to maintain compliance with their obligations.

¹ *Schedule listing ministerially imposed licence conditions for distribution network service providers*, licence condition 7; the *Transmission Operator's Licence under the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW)*, issued by the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, 7 December 2015, condition 11, p 7; the *Schedule of Ministerially imposed licence conditions for the operator of a transacted distribution system* issued to the Ausgrid Operator partnership on 1 December 2016, condition 14; and the *Schedule of Ministerially imposed licence conditions for the operator of a transacted distribution system* issued to the Endeavour Energy Operator partnership on 7 June 2017, condition 14.

2 Bushfire risk management reporting

IPART requires that each ENO produce an annual bushfire risk management report to establish its effectiveness in managing this risk. The annual bushfire report allows IPART to identify areas of concern within an ENO's bushfire risk mitigation program and determine if intervention is required.

In accordance with the *Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014* clause 7(1)(b)(iv), an ENO's ENSMS must deal with the management of bushfire risk relating to electricity lines and other assets of the network operator's network that are capable of initiating bushfire.

As noted in IPART's *Electricity Networks Reporting Manual – Safety management system reporting*, clause 10 of the *Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014* (NSW) requires each ENO to publish annually the results of its performance against its ENSMS.

Reporting requirements outlined in this document apply to:

- ▼ Ausgrid
- ▼ Endeavour Energy
- ▼ Essential Energy
- ▼ TransGrid
- ▼ Sydney Trains
- ▼ Metro Trains Sydney
- ▼ Directlink
- ▼ Lord Howe Island
- ▼ ActewAGL Distribution (ACT)
- ▼ Ausnet Services (Victoria)
- ▼ PowerCor (Victoria), and
- ▼ Energy Queensland (Queensland).

2.1 Timing and lodgement

The bushfire risk management report is to align with the nominal bushfire season and cover the ensuing 12 months, ie, from 1 October up to and including 30 September of the next calendar year.

The report is to be submitted to IPART by 31 October each year or as otherwise specified by IPART. Bushfire risk management reports are to be submitted to IPART via the energy@ipart.nsw.gov.au email address.

The report is to be published on the ENOs website by 30 November annually.

2.2 Content

The bushfire risk management report is to contain details of:

- ▼ number of inspections of power lines (owned by the ENO and by private customers) undertaken against the number required
- ▼ number of defects identified
- ▼ number of defects corrected
- ▼ number of fire ignitions from network assets
- ▼ number of fire ignitions from private installations
- ▼ bushfire risk management actions
- ▼ audit reports on the ENSMS (specifically, the elements of the report addressing management of bushfire risk), and
- ▼ compliance with any directions from IPART.

Full details of reporting requirements can be found in the bushfire risk management report template in Appendix A.



Appendices

A Annual Bushfire Risk Management Report

A.1 Introduction

The Annual Bushfire Risk Management Report allows Electricity Network Operators (ENO's) to provide meaningful data on their bushfire risk mitigation programs as well as their performance in managing their bushfire risk.

The report covers the 12 month period beginning at the commencement of the nominal bushfire season ie, 1 October of the previous calendar year through to 30 September of the current year. The report is then due to IPART by 31 October.

For the purpose of this document a bushfire is 'a general term used to describe fire in vegetation, including grass fire', as defined by the NSW Rural Fire Service.²

[This template provides the base level of information required by IPART. The ENO may add any information or commentary as they see fit to supplement this base information.]³

A.2 Climate conditions

[The ENO will provide a description of the climate factors relating to bushfire risk that its network was subjected to over the reporting year. They will indicate seasonal variations that impacted the bushfire risk and identify any steps to compensate for changed climate conditions.

The level of detail provided here is to be reflective of what the ENO requires in order to make a policy decision about bushfire risk management]

² NSW Rural Fire Service, Dictionary/Terminology, <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area/planning-for-bush-fire-protection/dictionary-terminology>, accessed 18 May 2016.

³ Bracketed sections are to provide guidance for the Network Operators. These sections are to be deleted and replaced by the Network Operator in accordance with that guidance.

A.3 Statistical reporting

This section provides statistics on the current bushfire season’s risk management works as well as providing detail of outstanding works from previous seasons.

Table 1 Data on bushfire risk preparation works

Criteria	Target this season	Actual this season	Outstanding from previous seasons	Actual from previous seasons
Line route length of the ENO's network inspected in bushfire prone areas within the reporting year.				
Private lines checked by the ENO's in pre-season inspections by the conclusion of the reporting year.				
Number of HV customers advised to undertake pre-season bushfire checks in accordance with ISSC 31 ^a .				

^a New South Wales Department of Industry, *ISSC 31 Guideline for the Management of Private Overhead Lines*, 1 July 2004.

^b HV means high voltage.

Table 2 Bushfire starts and risk management

Criteria	Inside bushfire prone areas	Outside bushfire prone areas
Number of reported bushfire ignitions by private installations ^a (HV and LV).		
Number of reported bushfire ignitions by the ENO's electricity network.		
Number of identified vegetation defects open at the conclusion of the reporting year within bushfire prone areas.		
Number of directions for bushfire risk mitigation issued to private LV customers by the ENO that are outstanding as of 30 September.		
Number of directions for bushfire risk mitigation issued to private LV customers by the ENO that are outstanding by more than 60 days.		
Number of HV customers providing statements of compliance in accordance with ISSC 31 by 30 September.		

^a A private installation has the same meaning as electrical installation as defined by the *Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW)*.

Table 3 Asset defects impacting bushfire risk

	Inside bushfire prone areas				Outside bushfire prone areas			
	Cat 1 ^a	Cat 2 ^b	Cat 3 ^c	Cat 4 ^d	Cat 1 ^a	Cat 2 ^b	Cat 3 ^c	Cat 4 ^d
Number of identified asset defects impacting bushfire risk within bushfire prone areas that were open at the conclusion of the reporting year.								
Number of directions for bushfire risk mitigation work on private land issued to LV customers by the ENO.								

^a Category 1 Defects: Defects that pose a direct and immediate risk to the safety of the public/staff and requiring immediate rectification.

^b Category 2 Defects: Defects that pose a risk to the safety of the public/staff and require rectification with one month.

^c Category 3 Defects: Defects that pose a predictable future risk to the safety of the public/staff and require rectification within 6 months.

^d Category 4 Defects: Defects that pose a predictable future risk to the safety of the public/staff but can be rectified through planned maintenance.



A.4 ENO comments

[The ENO may provide any commentary they see fit with regards to their bushfire risk mitigation options.]