

# Network Standard

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NW000-S0102

NS174 ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES



## ISSUE

For issue to all Ausgrid and Accredited Service Providers' staff involved with the construction, maintenance and operation of Ausgrid's network, and is for reference by field, technical and engineering staff.

Ausgrid maintains a copy of this and other Network Standards together with updates and amendments on [www.ausgrid.com.au](http://www.ausgrid.com.au).

Where this standard is issued as a controlled document replacing an earlier edition, remove and destroy the superseded document.

## DISCLAIMER

As Ausgrid's standards are subject to ongoing review, the information contained in this document may be amended by Ausgrid at any time. It is possible that conflict may exist between standard documents. In this event, the most recent standard shall prevail.

This document has been developed using information available from field and other sources and is suitable for most situations encountered in Ausgrid. Particular conditions, projects or localities may require special or different practices. It is the responsibility of the local manager, supervisor, assured quality contractor and the individuals involved to make sure that a safe system of work is employed and that statutory requirements are met.

Ausgrid disclaims any and all liability to any person or persons for any procedure, process or any other thing done or not done, as a result of this Standard.

All design work, and the associated supply of materials and equipment, must be undertaken in accordance with and consideration of relevant legislative and regulatory requirements, latest revision of Ausgrid's Network Standards and specifications and Australian Standards. Designs submitted shall be declared as fit for purpose. Where the designer wishes to include a variation to a network standard or an alternative material or equipment to that currently approved the designer must obtain authorisation from the Network Standard owner before incorporating a variation to a Network Standard in a design.

External designers including those authorised as Accredited Service Providers will seek approval through the approved process as outlined in NS181 Approval of Materials and Equipment and Network Standard Variations. Seeking approval will ensure Network Standards are appropriately updated and that a consistent interpretation of the legislative framework is employed.

**Notes:** 1. Compliance with this Network Standard does not automatically satisfy the requirements of a Designer Safety Report. The designer must comply with the provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (NSW - Part 6.2 Duties of designer of structure and person who commissions construction work) which requires the designer to provide a written safety report to the person who commissioned the design. This report must be provided to Ausgrid in all instances, including where the design was commissioned by or on behalf of a person who proposes to connect premises to Ausgrid's network, and will form part of the Designer Safety Report which must also be presented to Ausgrid. Further information is provided in Network Standard (NS) 212 Integrated Support Requirements for Ausgrid Network Assets.

2. Where the procedural requirements of this document conflict with contestable project procedures, the contestable project procedures shall take precedent for the whole project or part thereof which is classified as contestable. Any external contact with Ausgrid for contestable works projects is to be made via the Ausgrid officer responsible for facilitating the contestable project. The Contestable Ausgrid officer will liaise with Ausgrid internal departments and specialists as necessary to fulfil the requirements of this standard. All other technical aspects of this document which are not procedural in nature shall apply to contestable works projects.

## INTERPRETATION

In the event that any user of this Standard considers that any of its provisions is uncertain, ambiguous or otherwise in need of interpretation, the user should request Ausgrid to clarify the provision. Ausgrid's interpretation shall then apply as though it was included in the Standard, and is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into with any person disputing the meaning of the provision published in the Standard or the accuracy of Ausgrid's interpretation.

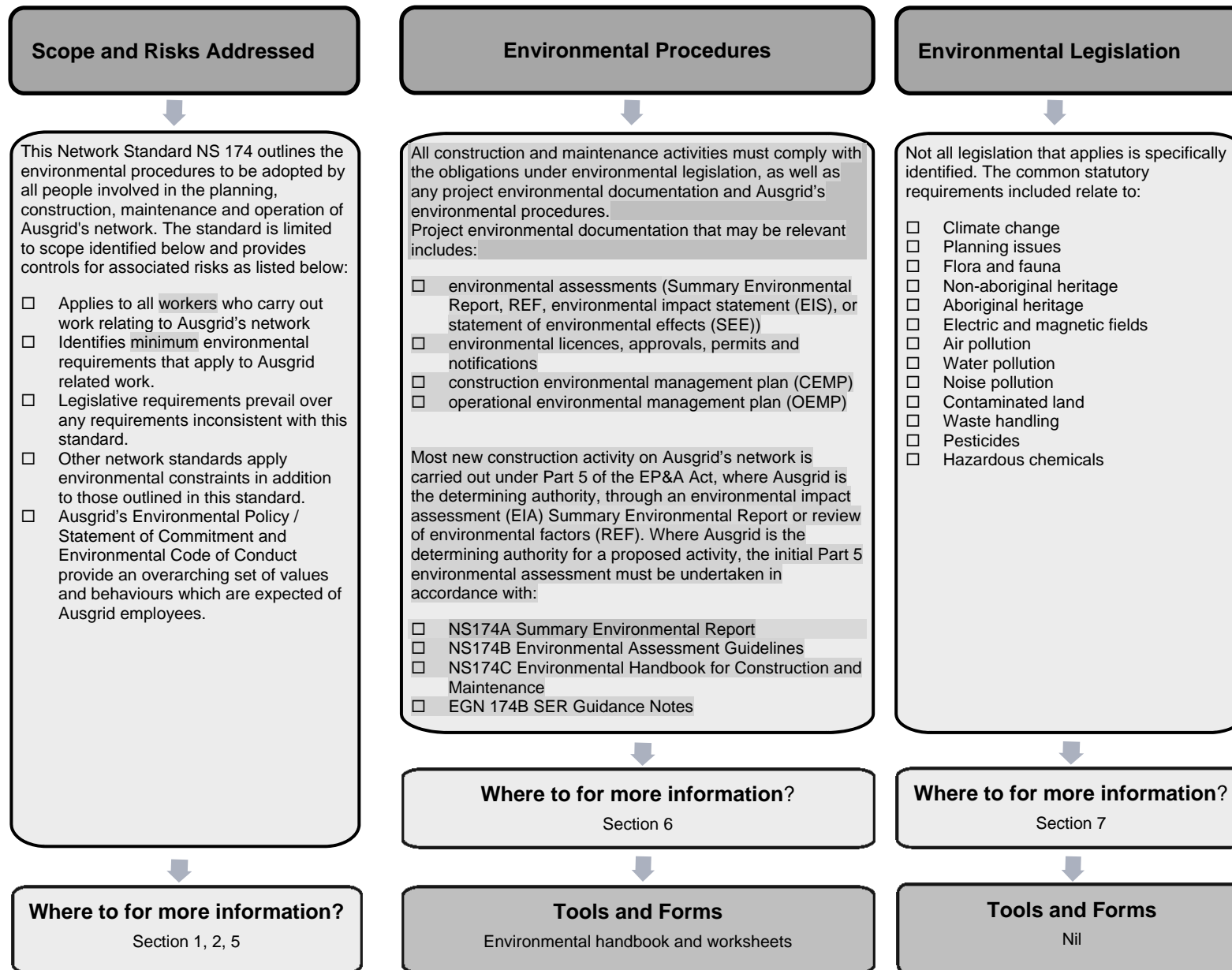
## KEYPOINTS

This standard has a summary of content labelled "KEYPOINTS FOR THIS STANDARD". The inclusion or omission of items in this summary does not signify any specific importance or criticality to the items described. It is meant to simply provide the reader with a quick assessment of some of the major issues addressed by the standard. To fully appreciate the content and the requirements of the standard it must be read in its entirety.

## AMENDMENTS TO THIS STANDARD

Where there are changes to this standard from the previously approved version, any previous shading is removed and the newly affected paragraphs are shaded with a grey background. Where the document changes exceed 25% of the document content, any grey background in the document is to be removed and the following words should be shown below the title block on the right hand side of the page in bold and italic, for example, Supersedes – document details (for example, "Supersedes Document Type (Category) Document No. Amendment No.").

# KEY POINTS OF THIS STANDARD



# Network Standard NS174 Environmental Procedures

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

Network Standard NS174 outlines the environmental procedures to be adopted by all people involved in the planning, construction, maintenance and operation of Ausgrid's network.

This Network Standard provides an overview of environmental legislative requirements to:

- assist workers in understanding their environmental responsibilities, and
- assist workers in locating information which will aid them in complying with their environmental responsibilities.

## 2.0 SCOPE

This Network Standard applies to all individuals who carry out any work related to Ausgrid's network and includes Ausgrid employees, Accredited Service Providers (ASPs), contractors, sub-contractors and associates.

This Network Standard does not attempt to cover all environmental legislative requirements but rather attempts to bring together the most common requirements that are likely to apply to Ausgrid's network related activities.

Where there is an inconsistency between this document and a legislative requirement, the legislative requirement will prevail. The requirements of other relevant Network Standards must also be complied with.

## 3.0 REFERENCES

### 3.1 General

All work covered in this document shall conform to all relevant Legislation, Standards, Codes of Practice and Network Standards. Current Network Standards are available on Ausgrid's Internet site at [www.ausgrid.com.au](http://www.ausgrid.com.au).

### 3.2 Ausgrid documents

- Bushfire Risk Management Plan
- Company Form (Governance) - Network Document Endorsement and Approval
- Company Procedure (Governance) - Network Document Endorsement and Approval
- Company Procedure (Network) - Production / Review of Network Standards
- Customer Installation Safety Plan
- Electrical Safety Rules
- Electricity Network Safety Management System Manual
- EM 000 Environmental Statement of Commitment
- EM 001 Environmental Code of Conduct
- NS174A Summary Environmental Report
- NS174B Environmental Assessment Guidelines
- NS174C Environmental Handbook for Construction and Maintenance
- NS181 Approval of Materials and Equipment and Network Standard Variations
- NS212 Integrated Support Requirements for Ausgrid Network Assets
- NS261 Requirement for Design Compliance Framework for Network Standards
- Tree Safety Management Plan

### 3.3 Other standards and documents

- Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand 2000, Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality, Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand, Canberra
- Department of Environment and Climate Change 2009, Interim Construction Noise Guidelines, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney
- Environment Protection Authority 2000, NSW Industrial Noise Policy, Environment Protection Authority, Sydney South
- HS000-Y0034 Environment Board Policy
- ENA Doc 001-2008 National Electricity Network Safety Code
- EGN 174B Summary Environmental Report Guidance Notes

### 3.4 Acts and regulations

- *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*
- *Electricity Supply Act 1995*
- Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2014 (NSW)
- Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Chemical Control Order 1997, Environment Protection Authority, Sydney.
- Chemical Control Order in Relation to Scheduled Chemical Wastes 2004, Environment Protection Authority, Sydney.
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*
- *Heritage Act 1977*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003*
- *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*
- *Pesticides Act 1999*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy No 55 – Remediation of Land*
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*
- *Water Act 1912*
- *Water Management Act 2000*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and Regulation 2011

## 4.0 DEFINITIONS

<b>Accredited Service Provider (ASP)</b>	An individual or entity accredited by the NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources and Energy, in accordance with the Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014 (NSW).
<b>ANZECC</b>	Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
<b>ARMCANZ</b>	Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand
<b>Business Management System (BMS)</b>	An Ausgrid internal integrated policy and procedure framework that contains the approved version of documents.
<b>CEMP</b>	Construction environmental management plan
<b>CER</b>	Clean Energy Regulator (Federal)
<b>CLM Act</b>	<i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>
<b>Document control</b>	Ausgrid employees who work with printed copies of document must check the BMS regularly to monitor version control. Documents are considered "UNCONTROLLED IF PRINTED", as indicated in the footer.
<b>DOEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy (Federal)
<b>DPE</b>	Department of Planning and Environment (State)
<b>DPI</b>	Department of Primary Industries (State)
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental impact assessment
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental impact statement
<b>EMF</b>	Electric and magnetic fields
<b>EHC Act</b>	<i>Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985</i>
<b>EP&amp;A Act</b>	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
<b>EPA</b>	Environment Protection Authority (State)
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
<b>EPI</b>	Environmental planning instrument
<b>NES</b>	National environmental significance
<b>Network Standard</b>	A document, including Network Planning Standards, that describes the Company's minimum requirements for planning, design, construction, maintenance, technical specification, environmental, property and metering activities on the distribution and transmission network. These documents are stored in the Network Category of the BMS repository.
<b>NGER</b>	National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting
<b>NHMRC</b>	National Health and Medical Research Council
<b>NPW Act</b>	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>OCP</b>	Organochlorine pesticide
<b>OEMP</b>	Operational environmental management plan

<b>OEH</b>	Office of Environment and Heritage (State)
<b>PCB</b>	Polychlorinated biphenyls
<b>POEO Act</b>	<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>
<b>REF</b>	Review of environmental factors
<b>Review date</b>	The review date displayed in the header of the document is the future date for review of a document. The default period is three years from the date of approval however a review may be mandated at any time where a need is identified. Potential needs for a review include changes in legislation, organisational changes, restructures, occurrence of an incident or changes in technology or work practice and/or identification of efficiency improvements.
<b>RFS</b>	NSW Rural Fire Service (State)
<b>SCW</b>	Scheduled chemical waste
<b>SEE</b>	Statement of environmental effects
<b>SEPP</b>	State environmental planning policy
<b>WM Act</b>	<i>Water Management Act 2000</i>

## 5.0 BACKGROUND

Legislative obligations can affect the conduct of activities associated with Ausgrid's network at all levels. They can impact on activities from long-term network planning decisions, through to line construction and maintenance. Consequences of non-compliance include large fines, conviction of corporate officers and remedial orders or injunctions that may delay a project or render it commercially unviable.

Under environmental legislation, a business must, through its employees and contractors:

- conduct proper environmental assessments and obtain the required approvals, licences and permits and
- avoid harm and potential harm to the environment in the course of conducting business.

All Ausgrid workers must comply with our Environmental Policy/**Statement of Commitment** and Environmental Code of Conduct, which are both available on Ausgrid's website at [www.ausgrid.com.au](http://www.ausgrid.com.au). These documents provide the overarching values and behaviours expected of our workers.

State legislation can be found at the New South Wales (NSW) Government legislation website at [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

Commonwealth legislation can be found at the ComLaw website at [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au).



## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES

### 6.1 Environmental assessments

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) is the primary piece of legislation for regulating planning and development in NSW. An overview of environmental legislative and other requirements which relate to planning is provided in Section 7 of this Network Standard. Environmental assessments are also regulated by the:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (EP&A Reg)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (ISEPP)
- *NSW Code of Practice for Authorised Network Operators* (Planning Code) (Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), 2015).

Most new construction activity on Ausgrid's network is carried out under Part 5 of the EP&A Act, where Ausgrid is the determining authority, through an environmental impact assessment (EIA) Summary Environmental Report (SER) or review of environmental factors (REF). Where Ausgrid is the determining authority for a proposed activity, the initial Part 5 environmental assessment must be undertaken in accordance with:

- NS174A Summary Environmental Report (SER)
- NS174B EIA Guidelines
- NS174C Environmental Handbook for Construction and Maintenance (Handbook)
- EGN 174B SER Guidance Notes.

All Part 5 environmental assessments must be verified by Ausgrid.

Activities that, by their scope or location, are likely to present greater legal exposure for Ausgrid require that this exposure be specifically assessed. Examples include activities that have the potential to affect threatened species, Aboriginal relics, Ramsar wetlands, decommissioning substations. In these instances, the Summary Environmental Report specifies that it must be referred to Ausgrid's Environmental Services for detailed assessment. This detailed assessment may take the form of an REF.

### 6.2 Construction and maintenance activities

An overview of environmental statutory requirements that relate to construction and maintenance is provided in Section 7 of this Network Standard.

All construction and maintenance activities must comply with the obligations under environmental legislation, as well as any project environmental documentation and Ausgrid's environmental procedures.

Project environmental documentation that may be relevant includes:

- environmental assessments (SER, REF, environmental impact statement (EIS), or statement of environmental effects (SEE))
- environmental licences, approvals, permits and notifications
- construction environmental management plan (CEMP)
- operational environmental management plan (OEMP).

The Handbook does not describe all legal requirements but rather specifies the minimum environmental controls for all construction and maintenance work on Ausgrid's network.

Where there is an inconsistency between the Handbook and a project specific condition in an environmental assessment, the condition in the environmental assessment prevails. Further, where there is an inconsistency between the Handbook and requirements in environmental legislation, the requirement in the environmental legislation prevails.

Non Ausgrid employees must rely on their own systems to identify all environmental risks and sources of existing or potential environmental harm and introduce measures and procedures to address these risks or sources of harm. The Handbook may form part of that system.

## 7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The following sections provide a brief overview of the statutory requirements which may apply to an activity, depending on the scope of the activity and the location in which the activity is taking place. It should be noted that in some cases exemptions will apply or, alternatively, other guidelines and standards may be applicable. A reference to an Act should be read as a reference to the Act and its associated Regulations.

### 7.1 Climate change

The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007, administered by the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator (CER), establishes the legislative framework for the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) scheme, which is a national framework for reporting greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gas projects and energy consumption and production by corporations in Australia.

Ausgrid is required to report information on energy production, energy consumption and the amount of greenhouse gas emissions for the facilities under its operational control on an annual basis by 31 October following the financial year being reported. This includes greenhouse gas emissions of sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) from gas insulated switchgear and circuit breakers, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).

### 7.2 Planning

The EP&A Act, administered by the DPE, regulates planning and development in NSW. It provides the overall framework under which approvals are obtained and applies to all new construction activities, such as the installation of new substations and power lines. Some maintenance work also gets captured.

The EP&A Act requires an assessment of all relevant environmental planning instruments (EPIs) to determine if and what type of planning approval is required. If the development is not considered exempt and a planning approval is required, the EP&A Act prescribes the assessment/approval process and requires project activities to comply with any controls/approval conditions stipulated in the approval. Most new construction activity on Ausgrid's network is carried out under Part 5 of the EP&A Act, where Ausgrid is the determining authority. However, some construction activities will require approval from a consent authority under Part 4 of the EP&A Act or will require approval from the Minister under Part 5.1 of the EP&A Act.

The NSW Land and Environment Court has a wide discretion to restrain a breach of the EP&A Act and to restore the land to its earlier condition. Fines may be imposed for breaches of the EP&A Act to a maximum of \$5 million plus \$50,000 per day for a continuing offence.

Various other Acts require approvals for certain activities in specified areas. Examples include developments in wilderness areas, mine subsidence areas, special catchment areas, forestry areas, national parks and conservation areas, damaging seagrass and mangroves, dredging and working on classified roads.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), administered by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy (DOEE), regulates the protection of matters of national environmental significance (NES), such as world heritage, national heritage, Ramsar wetlands, Commonwealth listed threatened species, migratory birds, Commonwealth land. Actions likely to have a significant impact on these areas will require Commonwealth approval in addition to NSW planning requirements. Fines may be imposed for breaches of the EPBC Act to a maximum of \$9 million.

### 7.3 Flora and fauna

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), regulates the protection of plants and animals by creating offences for damaging threatened species, populations, ecological communities, critical habitat, protected fauna and protected flora without approval.

The *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, administered by the OEH, regulates the protection of native vegetation and has requirements for planning approval for clearing native vegetation on protected lands.

The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, administered by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), regulates the protection of native plants and requires the appropriate management of noxious weeds.

The *Electricity Supply Act 1995*, administered by the Department of Industry, regulates the trimming of trees which could interfere with electricity networks. However, this allowance does not apply to trees subject to certain protection orders or in protected areas.

The *Rural Fires Act 1997*, administered by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), regulates the prevention of bush fires, hazard reduction, bush fire danger period, permits, total fire bans and development of bush fire prone land.

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, administered by OEH, aims to protect species, populations and ecological communities threatened with extinction in NSW. It provides for the identification and classification of these species, populations and ecological communities and identifies key threatening processes. Fish and marine vegetation threatened with extinction in NSW are protected under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, administered by the DPI.

The EPBC Act, administered by DOEE, requires the approval of the Minister for actions that may have a significant impact on matters of NES. Matters of NES include wetlands of international importance, nationally threatened species and ecological communities, migratory species and Commonwealth marine areas.

### 7.4 Non-Aboriginal heritage

The *Heritage Act 1977*, administered by the OEH, regulates the protection of non-Aboriginal heritage by creating offences for damaging heritage items, if not in accordance with an approval. There are also requirements for maintaining heritage items, keeping heritage registers, notifying potential discoveries, and obtaining permits when working in areas where heritage relics could be discovered.

The EPBC Act, administered by DOEE, requires the approval of the Minister for actions that may have a significant impact on matters of NES. Matters of NES include world heritage properties and national heritage.

### 7.5 Aboriginal heritage

The NPW Act, administered by the NPWS, is the primary legislation regulating the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. Under the NPW Act it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place. Harm includes destroying, defacing or damaging an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, and in relation to an Aboriginal object, move the object from the land on which it has been situated. If a previously unknown Aboriginal object is discovered, it must be reported to OEH.

The EPBC Act, administered by DOEE, requires the approval of the Minister for actions that may have a significant impact on matters of NES. Matters of NES include national heritage which lists Aboriginal places.

## 7.6 Electric and magnetic fields

Ausgrid's position on EMF remains consistent with that of the Energy Networks Association (ENA). It has been adopted in the light of authoritative reviews having concluded that no adverse health effects from exposure to low level EMF have been established, however, recognising that there is, within the community, some concern about the issue which must be addressed. This position involves providing balanced and accurate information, operating our electrical power system prudently within relevant health guidelines, and closely monitoring scientific research on the EMF health issue.

The two internationally recognised exposure guidelines are ICNIRP and IEEE:

- International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) 2010
- International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in the USA 2002.

All works are to comply with the ICNIRP and IEEE guidelines and are to be conducted in accordance in a manner consistent with the principles of prudent avoidance.

Prudent avoidance has been defined in an Australian context by the former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, Sir Harry Gibbs, as 'doing what can be done without undue inconvenience and at modest expense' to avert the possible risk to health from exposure to new high voltage transmission facilities. In practical terms, this means designing new transmission and distribution facilities having regard to their capacity to produce EMF, and siting them having regard to the proximity of houses, schools and the like.

Ausgrid's position on EMF is available on our website at [www.ausgrid.com.au](http://www.ausgrid.com.au).

## 7.7 Pollution

The *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act), administered by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), regulates pollution control in NSW. The purpose of the POEO Act is primarily to prevent or minimise air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, land pollution and waste through a system of licensing and regulations.

Enforcement mechanisms include prosecution or the issuing of penalty infringement notices by the EPA. Fines may be imposed for breaches of the POEO Act. Tier 1 offences can attract penalties of up to \$5 million in the case of a corporation and \$1 million and/or seven years jail in the case of an individual. Further penalties of \$120,000 per day apply for failure to notify a continuing offence.

### 7.7.1 Air

Under the POEO Act, it is an offence to operate plant or handle materials in a way that causes air pollution. This includes the emission into the air of any impurity, including dust, smoke, cinders, solid particles, gases, fumes, odours and radioactive substances.

### 7.7.2 Water

Under the POEO Act, it is an offence to pollute waters. This includes the introduction of a solid, liquid or gas into waters which changes the physical, chemical or biological condition of the water or makes, or is likely to make, the waters unclean, noxious, poisonous or impure, detrimental to the health of people, aquatic life, animals, birds or fish in or around the waters. The term also includes the placing of a solid, liquid or gas where it might fall, descend, be washed or blown, into any waters.

The *Water Management Act 2000* (WM Act) establishes a statutory framework for managing water in NSW. An aquifer interference approval may be required for groundwater extraction or dewatering. A controlled activity approval is required to excavate within 40m of a water body, however, the Water Management (General) Regulation 2004 provides that public authorities are exempt from controlled activity approvals they carry out in, on or under waterfront land. Ausgrid is exempt from controlled activity approvals as a public authority.

The Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC, 2000), administered by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand

(ARMCANZ), provide a set of tools for assessing and managing ambient water quality. These guidelines are intended to be used to improve water quality management in Australia, and that the approach of cooperative and negotiated outcomes will be applied wherever possible.

### 7.7.3 Noise

Under the POEO Act, it is an offence to operate plant or handle materials in a way that causes noise pollution. This includes the emission of offensive noise that is harmful or interferes unreasonably with the comfort of a person who is outside the premises from which it is emitted.

The Interim Construction Noise Guidelines (EPA, 2009) describes the process for assessing and managing construction noise in NSW. It outlines the two key processes to manage the impact of construction noise and community expectations including the notion of using feasible and reasonable mitigation measures to reduce construction noise and undertaking consultation with potentially affected receivers and the community during the planning and construction stages of the project.

The NSW Industrial Noise Policy (EPA, 2000) focuses on the noise emitted from industrial sites and how this may affect the amenity of nearby receivers. It outlines an assessment procedure for industrial noise. This procedure has two components including controlling intrusive noise impacts in the short term for residences and maintaining noise level amenity for residences and other land uses. Ausgrid is guided by the Industrial Noise Policy for the assessment of noise impacts from electrical substations.

### 7.7.4 Contaminated land

Under the POEO Act, it is an offence for introducing substances on to land such that the substances are likely to cause land degradation, harm to people or the environment or property damage that is not trivial.

State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 55 – Remediation of Land was made under the EP&A Act and is administered by the DPE. SEPP 55 establishes a state wide approach for the regulation of development on contaminated sites. SEPP 55 applies to all contaminated land including sites not regulated by the EPA. In particular SEPP 55:

- establishes when development consent is (and is not) required to remediate or develop a contaminated site
- requires consent authorities to consider any contamination when deciding whether to grant consent to a development application
- requires notification to local councils for certain remediation works
- requires contamination to be taken into account in rezoning decisions.

SEPP 55 identifies two categories of remediation works. In most circumstances Ausgrid carries out remediation work under category 2 and is considered the determining authority for these remediation works. When undertaking category 2 remediation works, 30 days written notice is required to the local council before works can commence.

The *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (CLM Act), administered by the EPA, establishes a process for investigating and remediating land that the EPA considers to be contaminated significantly enough to require regulation. Under section 60 of the CLM Act, a person whose activities have contaminated land or a landowner whose land has been contaminated is required to notify the EPA when they become aware of the contamination in accordance with SEPP 55.

### 7.7.5 Waste

Under the POEO Act, it is an offence to incorrectly classify, store, handle, transport or dispose of waste. Waste is any substance which has been discarded, rejected, unwanted, surplus or abandoned, even if it can be reprocessed, recycled, re-used or recovered.

Licences are required for transporting, generating, processing and storing of certain wastes. Additionally, there are also requirements relating to checking that waste disposal facilities and transporters are appropriately licensed. In some cases waste tracking needs to be undertaken and records kept.

## 7.8 Pesticides

The *Pesticides Act 1999*, administered by the EPA, regulates the use of pesticides by creating offences for inappropriately using pesticides, such as harming non-target species, or using pesticides in a way which is not in accordance with the label. There are also requirements relating to training, keeping records, notifying neighbours and using only registered pesticides. Ausgrid uses pesticides for controlling weeds in substations, depots and vegetation along easements, termites and fungal rot within timber power poles, insect and animal pests in offices, depots and in or on other network assets.

## 7.9 Hazardous chemicals

The Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Chemical Control Order made under the *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985* (EHC Act), administered by the EPA, regulates the handling, storage, generation, transport, removal and disposal of PCBs. Licences are required for certain activities such as storing, transporting and disposing of certain classes of PCBs.

The Scheduled Chemical Waste (SCW) Chemical Control Order made under the EHC Act regulates the handling, storage, generation, transport, removal and disposal of SCWs such as benzene, chlordane, heptachlor, dieldrin and endrin.

## 8.0 RECORDKEEPING

The table below identifies the types of records relating to the process, their storage location and retention period.

Table 1 – Recordkeeping

Type of Record	Storage Location	Retention Period*
Approved copy of the network standard	BMS Network sub process Standard – Company	Unlimited
Draft Copies of the network standard during amendment/creation	HPRM Work Folder for Network Standards (Trim ref. 2014/21250/148)	Unlimited
Working documents (emails, memos, impact assessment reports, etc.)	HPRM Work Folder for Network Standards (Trim ref. 2014/21250/148)	Unlimited

\* The following retention periods are subject to change eg if the records are required for legal matters or legislative changes. Before disposal, retention periods should be checked and authorised by the Records Manager.

## 9.0 AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For this network standard the authorities and responsibilities of Ausgrid employees and managers in relation to content, management and document control of this network standard can be obtained from the *Company Procedure (Network) – Production/Review of Engineering Technical Documents within BMS*. The responsibilities of persons for the design or construction work detailed in this network standard are identified throughout this standard in the context of the requirements to which they apply.

## 10.0 DOCUMENT CONTROL

**Content Coordinator** : Manager – Environmental Services

**Distribution Coordinator** : Engineering Information and Services Manager