

Environment Fact Sheet

Environmental Handbook



Key message

A new version of NS174C Environmental Handbook for Construction and Maintenance was approved in June 2020.

All Ausgrid workers must comply with the requirements of the Handbook and have a copy readily available at the work site (electronic copies are preferred). More information is available in this [video](#).

Purpose

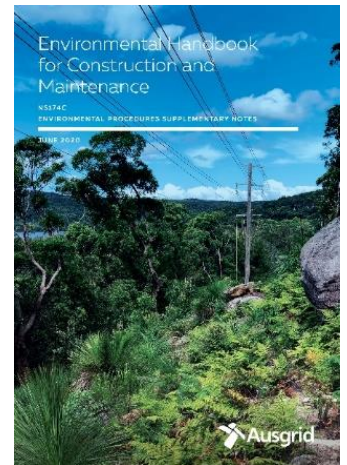
The Handbook forms part of Ausgrid's Environmental Management System (EMS) and is the key document for identifying both environmental requirements and controls.

The Handbook prescribes the minimum environmental controls for works carried out on our network.

Additional controls can be found in environmental planning approvals or other approvals that may apply to the work. For more information about these approvals and when they are required, refer to section 1.5 of the Handbook.

The Handbook aims to:

- help identify and control our environmental risks
- prevent incidents
- improve environmental performance
- improve customer relationships
- reduce costs and increase efficiencies.



Applies to

All Ausgrid workers (employees, contractors) and accredited service providers (ASPs) involved in the construction and maintenance of Ausgrid's network.

WebGIS Environmental Layers

The Handbook is integrated with Ausgrid's [WebGIS Environmental Layers](#) (WebGIS EL). The WebGIS EL helps identify environmental constraints which can then be used with the Handbook to determine the associated requirements. This tool is available to all people with WebGIS access and includes over 60 environmental datasets.

For a demonstration of the WebGIS EF Leaf Tool watch this [video](#).

Training

Handbook training will be updated and delivered as usual in the annual Environmental Awareness course (RF0003) as part of the ESR suite of training.

General changes

1. New document template and layout.
 2. Updated with regulatory changes throughout.
 3. New and improved flowcharts throughout.
 4. New tables listing key environmental Acts, training and incident notifications.
 5. Updated contact details.
 6. Embedded the new WebGIS EL 'leaf tool' into relevant sections as a pre work check.
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Key changes

Section	New or clarified requirement
1.5 Environmental planning	New information on the different planning approval processes and how to determine the approval process for a project.
2.3 Oil, fuel and chemicals	New requirements for storing oil reflected in new flow chart and added dangerous goods requirements.
3.4 Lead	New section - summarises existing company requirements.
3.5 Mercury	New section - summarises existing company requirements.
4.1 Air	New requirements for handling of SF6 gas.
4.4 Radio frequency fields	New section - summarises existing company requirements.
5.1 Contamination	New process for minor remediation works.
5.4 Use of recovered materials	Expanded requirements for receiving virgin excavated natural material (VENM), excavated natural material (ENM), recovered aggregates and recovered fines.
6.1 Vegetation	New flow chart detailing requirements for all types of vegetation/protected areas and new tree protection zone (TPZ)/structural root zone (SRZ) diagram including the 10% encroachment rule. Updated controls for works in sensitive areas, works in national park lands, and trenching and excavating.
6.2 Wildlife	New sections on flying foxes on power lines, bee swarms/hives and Powerful owls.
6.4 Total fire bans	New flow chart reflecting the new requirements in NW000-TG0107.
7.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage	Updated controls for works in sensitive areas and new flowchart detailing the requirements.
7.2 Non-Aboriginal heritage	New table detailing requirements for all types of Non-Aboriginal heritage, including links to the various lists and exemptions

More information

The Handbook is available electronically via the [Environmental Index](#) on The Wire or Ausgrid's [Networks Standards webpage](#).

For more information, please contact Environmental Services on [9394 6659](tel:93946659) or email environmentalservicest@ausgrid.com.au.

MANAGERS and SUPERVISORS - please ensure this update is circulated to relevant staff