

Public Electrical Safety Awareness Plan



2006 - 2009

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1 Introduction

TransGrid is the New South Wales State-owned Corporation responsible for transmitting high voltage electricity from power stations to electricity distributors and major industrial customers. TransGrid transmits electricity through some 12,400 kilometres of high voltage transmission lines. These lines cross private and public property along corridors which TransGrid has an obligation to maintain in a condition that allows the safe operation of the transmission lines.

TransGrid is committed to continuing its world leading practices in providing a safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and economic high voltage electricity network service to its customers.

2 Objective

The Public Electrical Safety Awareness (PESA) Plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002 to outline the management of TransGrid's network assets in relation to public safety.

The objective of TransGrid's PESA Plan is to make the public aware of the hazards associated with electricity, in particular high voltage transmission lines, cables and substations owned and/or operated by TransGrid.

3 Background

There have been no electrical incidents involving members of the public and TransGrid's assets since TransGrid was formed on 1 February 1995. However, a risk assessment undertaken to assist in the development of strategies for public electrical safety awareness highlighted a number of areas where there may be a potential for an increased risk for TransGrid in relation to public electrical safety.

The identified risks are:

- ♦ Unauthorised access in substations (eg. adventurous children, vandals, thieves);
- ♦ Unauthorised climbing of transmission towers;
- ♦ High machinery and extendable plant operating under transmission lines;
- ♦ Excavators and earth moving machinery in vicinity of high voltage cables;
- ♦ Logging contractors felling trees in vicinity of transmission lines;
- ♦ Kite flying and model planes in proximity to transmission lines;
- ♦ Fires under, or in proximity to, transmission lines;
- ♦ Crop dusting and aerial surveillance activities;
- ♦ Navigable waters under transmission lines.

The PESA Plan has been developed to ensure these risks are eliminated or controlled so as to minimise any impact on the public.

4 PESA Plan 2006 - 2009

This PESA Plan covers a three-year period from 2006 – 2009 and will be reviewed annually to ensure relevance. It continues from those previously developed to ensure the ongoing effective management of public electrical safety issues.

4.1 PESA Action Plans

Action Plans are developed on an annual basis to address each of the identified public electrical safety risks. These are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the identified issues and associated strategies remain relevant and effective.

The current Action Plan is focused on three specific areas:

1. Relationship Management
 - i) Property owners;
 - ii) Emergency Services;
 - iii) External Organisations;
2. Site Specific issues – related to individual transmission line structures, cables and substations;
3. Community Interaction – schools, residents, general community, etc.

Strategies to address these areas are included in the Action Plans based on assessed priorities. Progress with implementation of Action Plans will be monitored to ensure compliance.

4.1.1 Relationship Management

For those areas impacted by its assets, TransGrid maintains personal relationships with the property owners and conducts routine patrols. This provides an opportunity to inform property owners of the issues associated with electrical safety in relation to specific assets. Contact is also maintained on a regular basis with relevant property owners when any work on TransGrid assets may have an impact on them or in their vicinity.

Police, Fire Brigades, Rural Fire Services and State Emergency Services are important for response to emergencies that may occur on TransGrid assets. These services have attended briefings and/or inductions at various substations, specifically those that have been assessed as having an increased exposure for public safety. Experience of briefings with fire brigades indicates a good understanding of the hazards associated with substations, which is included in their training. Specific initiatives are therefore aimed at Police, Rural Fire Service (RFS) and State Emergency Services (SES).

Community consultation is mandatory with new projects and construction that may impact on the public. TransGrid has a formal community consultation process that ensures the issue of public safety is addressed.

Supervision and consultation is also maintained with TransGrid's contractors and sub-contractors to ensure responsibilities in relation to personal and public safety are understood and implemented appropriately. Risk assessments and Safety Management Plans are developed for new construction projects to identify and manage safety risks.

Activities undertaken by other organisations may also impact on TransGrid assets e.g. construction, logging and crop dusting. TransGrid has nominated officers to respond to inquiries and requests for information to assist these organisations to safely carry out their work in the vicinity of our assets.

Dial Before You Dig is a service to which TransGrid remains a participating member. This service provides information on the location of underground services for organisations external to TransGrid for specific work activities (e.g. excavation work).

4.1.2 Site Specific Issues

Any public safety issues identified for specific transmission lines, cables or substations are assessed and appropriate strategies developed to control the risks. These are incorporated into the Network Security Plan, Bushfire Risk Management Plan or the PESA Plan as appropriate.

4.1.3 Community Interaction

In addition to community consultation, information is made available to schools, residents and the general community with regard to electrical safety with TransGrid's assets. This may take the form of:

- ♦ Publications/brochures;
- ♦ TransGrid Web Page;
- ♦ Newspaper articles;
- ♦ Liaison with local schools and Councils, etc.

5 Responsibilities

5.1 General Manager/Network Services

Is responsible for:

- ♦ Monitoring TransGrid representation on Energy Networks Association (ENA) and Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) committees and working groups to ensure appropriate response on issues relating to public electrical safety.

5.2 Regional Managers

Are responsible for:

- ♦ Providing assistance with the development of the PESA Plan;
- ♦ Implementation of the Plan within their Region in areas of specific responsibility;
- ♦ Providing reports on progress with implementation of the Plan's objectives and submitting to the Manager/Health and Safety for inclusion in annual reports as required.

5.3 Manager/Health and Safety

Is responsible for:

- ♦ The development of the PESA Plan in consultation with stakeholders, including Regional Managers, Network Services Section Heads and other interested parties;
- ♦ Coordinating regular reviews of progress with Action Plans and providing reports to management as required;
- ♦ Liaising with Manager/Quality and Logistics to maintain current information for members of the public via TransGrid's website;
- ♦ Providing a copy of the PESA Plan and an annual report to DEUS (in conjunction with the Network Management Plan Report);
- ♦ Annual review with stakeholders to maintain the Plan's relevance to current issues.

6 Annual Review and Report

Each of the Specific Initiatives will be implemented, monitored and reviewed to ensure applicability and effectiveness. Performance Indicators will be evaluated and reported to the Department of Energy Utilities and Sustainability as part of the annual reporting requirements.

The Plan will be made available to interested parties via TransGrid's website at www.transgrid.com.au

7 Further Information

For more information, please contact TransGrid via:

Website - www.transgrid.com.au, or

Phone any of TransGrid's locations:

Sydney	9284 3000
Newcastle	4967 8678
Tamworth	6765 1666
Metropolitan	9620 0777
Orange	6360 8711
Yass	6226 9666
Wagga Wagga	6922 0222