

ASP Safety Alert

Electrical Safety & Compliance

Alert Number: SA08_20

3 August 2020

Subject: Live work changes to support customers and employees during COVID-19

Dear Authorised Ausgrid ASP

We have made some important changes to the way live work is planned and performed to help support our employees and minimise disruption to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following changes to the community impact assessment (question 2 of the 'Assessment of whether work should be carried out live or de-energised') in section 9.5.1 of the Electrical Safety Rules (ESR) mean that we will be able to perform critical work with fewer interruptions and less inconvenience to our customers while they are working and learning from home in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Temporary change to community impact assessments for residential customers

- Effective immediately, the residential customer impact assessment is reduced from **thirty (30) to five (5)**.
- This means that an interruption to five or more residential customers is regarded as materially or disproportionately impacting the community.
- This temporary change will be withdrawn (and the threshold for residential customers will return to 30) on a date to be advised, when the impact of COVID-19 on our customers has suitably reduced.

Permanent exemption from the community impact assessment for all streetlighting repairs and maintenance

- Effective immediately, there is a **permanent exemption** to the community impact assessment for **all** streetlighting repairs and maintenance.
- This means that the community impact assessment (question 2 in section 9.5.1 of the ESR) is not required for streetlighting repair and maintenance work where the work can be carried out without the worker passing uninsulated parts of their body or any uninsulated material between live exposed low voltage conductors. This work is permitted to be performed live, as long as the live work controls can be achieved and the work can be carried out safely.
- This change has been made in response to feedback from our employees. It will assist in reducing the time for Ausgrid to address repairs that were previously delayed during the pause on live work and, in many instances, remove the need to inconvenience customers with an outage to their supply while we complete this important work.
- We hope to be back on track with streetlighting repairs and our LED Replacement Program by the end of the year.

If you have any questions, please email livework@ausgrid.com.au

Regards

Trevor Armstrong
Chief Operating Officer - Ausgrid