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Following feedback raised by the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) on behalf of its members, and direct contact from Accredited Service Providers (ASPs), Ausgrid would like to provide this update to the pause on live work.

1. Ausgrid has introduced a number of additional measures to address concerns including:

- Prioritising customer impacted works over non-critical Ausgrid work
- Introducing a new protocol that gives greater visibility of, and where possible prevents, late cancellations; and
- Deploying additional resources to speed up the processing of outage planning and network access requests.

2. Path to resumption

The process to assess the recommencement of live work is ongoing.

Preliminary recommendations suggest that, subject to discussion and approval from various regulatory bodies, and amendments to the Electrical Safety Rules, Ausgrid is considering the recommencement of some currently paused live work tasks, with additional safety controls.

The tasks expected to resume are:

- The application of temporary insulation to exposed conductors
- Connection and disconnection of service connectors
- Connection and disconnection of bolted conductor connections
- Maintenance and replacement of street lighting assets
- Work on or near extra low voltage exposed conductors

3. Use of apprentices as observers

Ausgrid is also considering an exception for ASPs that will empower them to risk assess their need for additional controls. If this exception is adopted, it is possible that an ASP may determine that additional controls are not required. In this case it may be

possible that the work can be undertaken without the oversight of an electrically qualified safety observer. The Ausgrid Live Pause Consultative Committee, of which NECA is a member, will consider this issue further. As with the resumption of live work described above, this option remains subject to discussion with various regulatory bodies.

While we are looking at the mechanisms required to release these works, Ausgrid welcomes your thoughts and examples for where you or your members believe live work could be done with greater safety. Please send your suggestions to livework@Ausgrid.com.au