

A National Refresher Training Recognition Protocol for the Electricity Supply Industry

The Australian Energy Supply Industry (ESI) delivers electricity and gas to over 13.5 million customers, employs more than 40 000 people and contributes approximately 1.25 per cent to Australia's gross domestic product. Energy networks are critical to our prosperity and economic activity. Energy is delivered across Australia through approximately 48 000 kilometres of electricity transmission lines, 800 000 kilometres of electricity distribution lines and 81 000 kilometres of gas distribution pipelines. Energy network businesses are valued at more than \$50 billion and annually undertake investment of more than \$6 billion in network operations, reinforcement, expansions and greenfields extensions.

The development of the National Energy Market, increased interconnection of energy infrastructure across jurisdictional boundaries, energy companies operating in multiple jurisdictions and the desire for a rapid response to emergency situations has produced an increasing need for portability of workers and national harmonisation of energy industry regulation.

This protocol has been developed initially to facilitate the portability of ESI distribution and transmission lineworkers before December 2009, to assist in the restoration of electricity supply in response to an emergency situation, such as a bushfire or cyclone. In the longer term, it will facilitate the portability of refresher training competencies held by network workers.

The below parties have therefore agreed to sign a Protocol that:

- Identifies the minimum refresher training competencies which must be current for ESI distribution and transmission lineworkers in an emergency situation to gain and maintain access for the duration of the emergency to any ESI network infrastructure nationally.
- Confirms agreement to mutual recognition of these refresher training competencies and their currencies for the purposes of gaining and maintaining access to any ESI network infrastructure nationally.
- Confirms the agreement of each network operator to assess the refresher training competencies for ESI distribution and transmission line workers and to conduct induction training which includes local safety procedures, risk assessments, familiarisation in the tasks to be performed and identifies restricted work activities.
- Recognises that these refresher training competencies form the longer term basis for workforce mobility and commit to developing other competencies for energy supply industry workers such as, but not limited to, gas distribution, and cable jointers.

The agreed nationally recognised and endorsed essential refresher training units of competency required by ESI lineworkers are:

1. Apply ESI safety rules, codes of practice and procedures for work on or near electrical apparatus.
2. Provide first aid in an ESI environment.
3. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
4. Perform pole top rescue (for linework on distribution or transmission poles).
5. Perform tower rescue (for linework on distribution or transmission towers).
6. Perform elevated work platform (EWP) rescue.
7. Perform EWP controlled descent escape.
8. Apply access procedures to work on or near electrical network infrastructure.

Identified delivery and assessment tools will support the implementation of these units.

It is recognised that these essential refresher training competencies will form the basis for longer term labour mobility and skills portability enhancement opportunities and the parties hereby commit to finalising these initiatives.

In the longer term the parties will work towards an agreed implementation strategy beyond this Protocol.

Signed on
8 September 2009:



George Maltabarow
Chairman
Energy Networks Association



The Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP
Minister for Resources and Energy
Chair, Ministerial Council on Energy



Peter Tighe
National Secretary
Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union


Endorsed by:




Michael Costello
Chief Executive Officer
ActewAGL



Peter Davis
Chief Executive
Aurora Energy



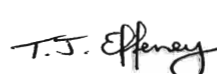
Shane Breheny
Chief Executive Officer
CitiPower and Powercor



Craig Murray
Managing Director
Country Energy



Ian Stirling
Chief Executive
ElectraNet



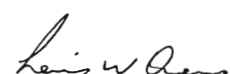
Terry Effenev
Chief Executive Officer
ENERGEX



George Maltabarow
Managing Director
EnergyAustralia



Ian McLeod
Chief Executive
Ergon Energy



Lew Owens
Chief Executive Officer
ETSA Utilities



Rod Hayes
Chief Executive
Horizon Power



Vince Graham
Chief Executive Officer
Integral Energy



Paul Adams
Managing Director
Jemena



Andrew Macrides
Managing Director
Power and Water Corporation



Gordon Jardine
Chief Executive
Powerlink Queensland



Nino Ficca
Managing Director
SP AusNet



Richard Bevan
Managing Director
Transend Networks



Kevin Murray
Managing Director
TransGrid



Hugh Gleeson
Chief Executive Officer
United Energy



Doug Aberle
Managing Director
Western Power