

Environment Fact Sheet

National Parks Protocol



Key messages All works in national park lands must comply with the [National Parks Protocol](#).

To assist Ausgrid comply with the Protocol, a National Parks Protocol Induction (eLearn) has been developed and made available in both MyGrid and Pegasus.

All staff involved in supervising, scheduling or undertaking works in National Parks are required to complete this Induction.

Applies to All Ausgrid workers who enter national park lands.

Background The [National Parks Protocol](#) commenced on 1 November 2016 and is accompanied by a [Consent](#) that provides legal authority for Ausgrid to undertake certain activities in national park lands.

The allowed activities generally include inspection, maintenance and emergency works. The protocol outlines controls to avoid and mitigate potential environmental harm and details the assessment and notification process required before starting works.

Definitions **Conservation Risk Assessment (CRA)** is an assessment of potential environmental constraints (including heritage and ecology) and can be generated using the [WebGIS EL](#).

Emergency works include “emergency works” as defined by [CI5](#) of the Infrastructure SEPP.

Maintenance works include “exempt development” as defined by [CI43\(1\)\(a\)-\(g\), \(i\), \(k\)-\(l\)](#) and [Schedule 1](#) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.

National park lands include national parks, nature reserves, historic sites, Aboriginal areas, state conservation areas, regional parks and karst conservation reserves.

WebGIS EL is Ausgrid’s environmental geographic information. An internal [WebGIS EL](#) is available to Ausgrid employees only and an external [WebGIS EL](#) is available to all Ausgrid workers.

Key requirements

- Complete the National Parks Protocol Induction (available in MyGrid or Pegasus).
- Check project documentation and the WebGIS EL to see if works are in national park lands.
- Comply with the controls below depending on whether the works are inspection, maintenance or emergency.
- Any incidents or breaches of the protocol must be notified to OEH within 48hrs. Contact Environmental Services prior to contacting OEH.

Inspection works

- Require at least 4 days’ notice prior to entry. This excludes inspections that are undertaken by foot or passenger vehicle and do not require the use of equipment.
- Notification can be provided using [EGN 540](#).
- Works may proceed if OEH advises that works may proceed or does not respond within 2 days.
- All works must comply with the controls in [NS174C Environmental Handbook](#).
- All works must comply with the [Consent](#) (generally covered by [NS174C](#)) and any additional controls specified by OEH.
- The notification and [NS174C](#) must be available onsite.

Maintenance works

- Generate a Conservation Risk Assessment (CRA) using the [WebGIS EL](#).
- Provide the CRA and at least 2 weeks' notice to OEH prior to commencing.
- Works may proceed if OEH advises that works may proceed or does not respond within 7 days.
- All works must comply with the controls in [NS174C Environmental Handbook](#).
- All works must comply with the [Consent](#) (generally covered by [NS174C](#)) and any additional controls specified by OEH.
- The Conservation Risk Assessment (CRA) and [NS174C](#) must be available onsite.

Emergency works

- Emergency works require verbal notification as soon as possible, followed by written notification.
- All works must comply with the controls in [NS174C Environmental Handbook](#).
- All works must comply with the [Consent](#) (generally covered by [NS174C](#)).
- [NS174C](#) must be available onsite.

More information

Please email environmentalservices@ausgrid.com.au or call 9394 6659. Ausgrid employees can refer to the [Environmental Index](#) on The Wire.

[WebGIS EL Fact Sheet](#) – provides information on how to access the WebGIS EL and generate a CRA.

[NS174C Environmental Handbook](#)

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