

WebGIS Environmental Layers – standard environmental controls

Purpose To outline the standard environmental controls which address environmental constraints for **low impact works**. These are identified via Ausgrid's WebGIS-Environmental Layers and/ or during site inspections.

Where the controls cannot be complied with, further assessment will be required to determine additional controls and possible approvals, licences or permits.

These standard environmental controls can also generally be found in:

- <u>NS174C Environmental Handbook</u> under working near **sensitive areas**.
- Summary Environmental Report for level 2 impacts (note: these controls may be altered depending on the project).

Standard controls are referenced in the <u>WebGIS Environmental Layers</u> through the 'Environmental report' button and 'What's here?' button

 Environmental
 The environmental planning process can be determined using the Environmental planning

 planning
 Planning Calculator

 process
 1
 what is being proposed (project scores)

- 1. what is being proposed (project scope),
- 2. where it will be undertaken, and
- 3. how it will be undertaken

Environmental features can be identified by generating a report using the <u>WebGIS Environmental Layers</u>.

Generally, most new works will require an environmental impact assessment under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. This will typically take the form of a Summary Environmental Report (SER). The SER will detail specific controls for the works.

Generally routine maintenance, repairs and some replacement works will be exempt from the need for an environmental impact assessment. These works can be undertaken in accordance with the controls for low impact works and the Environmental Handbook. Where the minimum controls cannot be complied with, further assessment will be required to determine additional controls and possible approvals, licences or permits.

Figure 1 below provides for a flowchart of the environmental planning process.

MoreContact Environmental Services at environmentalservices@ausgrid.com.au or oninformation9394 6659.



Figure 1 Environmental planning process

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1. Matters of national environmental significance (NES, Commonwealth)

Introduction	Matters of NES include nationally protected wetlands, threatened species and communities, migratory species and heritage areas.
	The controls for heritage are provided in Section 5.
	Some activities will require referral to the Commonwealth for a decision on whether assessment and approval is required under the EPBC Act.
Controls for low impact	 a) No works in undisturbed areas (including storing equipment in, parking vehicles on or accessing the worksite through an undisturbed area).
works	 b) No disturbance of bush rock, tree hollows, wetlands, mangroves, nests, aquatic or other sensitive habitats.
	c) Retain native ground cover vegetation.
	d) No disturbance of remnant native vegetation unless works are for the purpose of vegetation maintenance, undertaken in accordance with Ausgrid's <u>TSMP</u> and clearing is to the minimum extent necessary to maintain existing and regularly maintained clearances (ie no new clearance envelopes).
	e) Comply with the general controls in NS174C- <u>Section 6.1</u> .
Environment al Handbook	Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require an environmental planning approval (Commonwealth referral/approval).
	If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

2. Biodiversity (NSW)

Introduction Plants and animals are assessed if they are at risk of extinction. If the risk is high they are listed in legislation and conservation actions are developed for their protection.

Some wetlands and rainforests have inherent hydrological or ecological characteristics that are deemed worthy of protection.

NSW protected items include threatened species, ecological communities, areas of outstanding biodiversity value, Littoral Rainforests and Coastal Wetlands (including their proximity areas).

Some activities will require assessment and possible Minister approval.

Controls for low impact works

- a) No works in areas declared to be Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value.
- b) No works in Littoral Rainforests or Coastal Wetlands unless the works are routine maintenance or emergency works and the impacts are restricted to the minimum possible. All other works will require an Environmental Impact Statement.
- c) No works in Littoral Rainforest or Coastal Wetland **proximity areas** unless impacts are restricted to the minimum possible.
- d) Works in Littoral Rainforests, Coastal Wetlands (including proximity areas), ecological communities or within proximity to threatened species are also subject to the controls below.
 - All workers to be made aware of ecologically sensitive areas and the need to avoid impacts.
 - No works in undisturbed areas (including storing equipment in, parking vehicles on or accessing the worksite through an undisturbed area).
 - No disturbance of bush rock, tree hollows, wetlands, mangroves, nests, aquatic or other sensitive habitats.
 - No use of pesticides.
 - No importing mulch from other sites.
 - No disturbance of remnant native vegetation unless works are for the purpose of vegetation maintenance, undertaken in accordance with Ausgrid's TSMP and clearing is to the minimum extent necessary to maintain existing and regularly maintained clearances (ie no new clearance envelopes).
 - Comply with the general controls in NS174C-Section 6.1.

Note Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require an environmental planning approval (such as SER or REF).

If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

3. Marine vegetation or dredging/reclamation of a water body

Introduction	Marine vegetation, such as saltmarsh, mangroves, seagrasses, and macroalgae (seaweeds), provides shelter and nursery areas for aquatic animals and a hiding place from predators, and is an essential component of the food chain in estuarine and coastal environments. It also stabilises sediments and shorelines, and protects water quality in estuaries for recreational users.
Controls for	a) No impacts to key fish habitat.
low impact works	 b) No works below the high water mark of a natural waterway (including dredging, excavating, reclamation or vehicle access).
	c) No impacts to marine vegetation unless in accordance with Ausgrid's permit for vegetation management works around mangroves. Conditions of the permit include notifications to DPI and preparation of a CEMP (refer to <u>EF</u> <u>560 Managing Marine Vegetation</u>). Controls in the CEMP include:
	 restrictions on material storage and stockpiling
	 requirements for site restoration and clean up
	machinery access requirements
	incident reporting
	 no go areas and visual inspections
	d) Comply with the general controls in NS174C- <u>Section 6.1</u> .
Note	Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require an environmental planning approval (such as SER or REF or permit).
	If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

4. Other ecological issues

Introduction	Other protected ecological areas include marine parks, aquatic / nature reserves, declared wilderness areas, wild rivers and State Forests/Crown Timber Land, Biodiversity stewardship sites, wildlife refuge areas, conservation agreement areas and RMS biodiversity offset areas, national parks, protected riparian land, identified old growth forests, identified rainforests and core koala habitat.
Controls for low impact works	a) Marine parks, aquatic / nature reserves, declared wilderness areas, wild rivers and State Forests/Crown Timber Land - No works unless complying with conditions of a licence/easement.
	b) Biodiversity stewardship sites, wildlife refuge areas, conservation agreement areas and RMS biodiversity offset areas – No works unless complying with Ausgrid's <u>BCT exemption</u> (for maintenance and emergency works in BCT areas). Other works may require Minister consent.
	c) National parks – No new works. For maintenance and inspection works, comply with the assessment/notification requirements of the <u>NPWS protocol</u> for inspection and maintenance works in national parks. Conditions include:
	 Provide at least 4 days' notice for inspection works (unless undertaken by foot or passenger vehicle and do not require the use of equipment) using EGN 540 Ausgrid Notification to National Parks template.
	 Provide at least 2 weeks' notice and a CRA for maintenance works. The maintenance notification / CRA template can be generated from the <u>WebGIS Environmental Layers</u>.
	 Provide notice as soon as practicable after any emergency works have been undertaken.
	 d) Ecology Other (protected riparian land, identified old growth forests, identified rainforests and core koala habitat).
	 All workers to be made aware of ecologically sensitive areas and the need to avoid impacts.
	 No works in undisturbed areas (including storing equipment in, parking vehicles on or accessing the worksite through an undisturbed area).
	 No disturbance of bush rock, tree hollows, wetlands, mangroves, nests, aquatic or other sensitive habitats.
	Retain native ground cover vegetation.
	No importing mulch from other sites.
	 No disturbance of remnant native vegetation unless works are for the purpose of vegetation maintenance, undertaken in accordance with Ausgrid's TSMP and clearing is to the minimum extent necessary to maintain existing and regularly maintained clearances (ie no new clearance envelopes).
	• Comply with the general controls in NS174C- <u>Section 6.1</u> .
Note	Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require an environmental planning approval (such as SER or REF). If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

5. Non-Aboriginal heritage

Introduction Non-Aboriginal heritage includes items and places that are valued because of their historical, archaeological, cultural or architectural significance.

Heritage can include buildings, cobblestone roads, sandstone gutters, trees, parks, electrical equipment and archaeological sites. Classes of heritage significance include Local, State, National and World.

Controls for low impact works

- a) Impacts to **Commonwealth or World or National heritage** could require a heritage assessment and/or approval, unless works involve only minor repairs and maintenance to electrical infrastructure or the site's management plan states that the area or item does not embody heritage values.
- b) Impacts to **State heritage** items require a heritage assessment and/or approval, unless in accordance with an approved conservation management plan or in accordance with a <u>S57 exemption</u> or <u>Ausgrid specific exemption</u>.
- c) More than minor or inconsequential impacts to **local heritage** or heritage conservation areas listed by Council require a statement of heritage impact, written notification to council and due consideration of council's response.
- d) Excavating any land which is likely to result in a **relic** being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed requires a S140 excavation permit, unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with a <u>S139</u> exception.
- e) Impacts to Ausgrid's **movable heritage** (<u>Tier 1</u>) require approval by Environmental Services in accordance with <u>EF 17440 Movable heritage form</u>.
- f) Impacts to Ausgrid's movable heritage (<u>Tier 2</u>) require a Photographic Archival Recording in accordance with <u>EF 17440</u>.
- g) Demolition, removal or sale of heritage items on **Ausgrid's** <u>S170 register</u> (Ausgrid employees) requires 14 days written notice to NSW Heritage.
- h) Impacts to **potential heritage** items such as sandstone gutters, cobblestone roads or sandstone walls require a heritage assessment.
- Where possible, avoid impacts to Sydney Water S170 register items. Further information can be obtained on <u>Sydney Water's website</u> or via their environmental team on 8849 5936.
- j) Comply with the general controls in NS174C-Section 7.2.

Heritage
discoveriesAll works to stop immediately and restrict access if potential non-Aboriginal
heritage is discovered.Ausgrid and PLUS ES employees should contact Environmental Services on
9394 6659.

Note Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require an environmental planning approval (such as SER or REF or Heritage Council approval).

If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

6. Aboriginal cultural heritage

Introduction	Aboriginal cultural heritage includes objects and places with evidence of Aboriginal occupation or with special cultural significance. These can include artefacts, middens, axe-grinding or tool sharpening grooves, scarred or carved trees, paintings, rock engravings and burial sites.
Controls for low impact	 All workers to be made aware of the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the area and the need to avoid impacts.
works	b) No disturbance of the ground surface or ground cover.
	c) No disturbance of rock outcrops.
	d) Where available keep to existing roadways or access tracks.
	e) Use plant and equipment that would not disturb rock outcrops (such as rubber tyred vehicles).
	f) No disturbance of native trees unless works are for the purpose of vegetation maintenance, undertaken in accordance with Ausgrid's <u>TSMP</u> and clearing is to the minimum extent necessary to maintain existing and regularly maintained clearances (that is no new clearance envelopes).
	g) Comply with the general controls in NS174C- <u>Section 7.1</u> .
Heritage discoveries	Stop work immediately and restrict access if potential Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered.
	Ausgrid and PLUS ES employees should contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.
Note	Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require an environmental planning approval (such as an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit). If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

7. Steep or highly erodible land and protected riparian land

Introduction	Riparian land is the land that runs along rivers, creeks, estuaries, lakes and wetlands. Riparian land can vary in width from a narrow strip to a wide corridor.
	Steep or highly erodible land is land that is greater than 1 hectare with a slope equal to or greater than 18 degrees.
	Maintenance of tree cover on certain land is covered by legislation.
Controls for low impact works	 All workers to be made aware of sensitive areas (drainage lines, grates, drains, inlets, exposed surfaces, areas subject to bogging and waterways) and the need to avoid impacts.
	b) Manage worksite to prevent:
	 erosion (e.g. minimise ground disturbance, provide ground cover, avoid or cover stockpiles, divert surface water around disturbed areas)
	 sediment or unclean water leaving the site (e.g. install sediment controls, clean vehicles leaving the worksite, inspect and maintain controls, restore surfaces).
	c) No ground disturbance > 50m ²
	 No vegetation removal on category 2 regulated land (Steep or highly erodible land or protected riparian land).
	e) Comply with the general controls in NS174C- <u>Section 2.1</u> .
Note	Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require a specific management plan (such as an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan).
	If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

8. Contamination

Introduction	Exposure to contaminated soil or water, such as when excavating, can pose a risk for workers and the public. Contamination can also harm the environment and impact infrastructure such as cables, conduits and footings.
Controls for low impact	a) No ground disturbance within an area of known or where there are indicators of contaminated land unless the works have been assessed/approved.
works - contamination	 All workers to be made aware of the presence of known and suspected contaminated land.
	c) All workers to monitor areas for indicators of contaminated land
	 unusual odours (such as fuels, solvents, rotten egg gas)
	oil staining or oil sheen in groundwater
	 underground storage tanks (UST)
	• buried waste (such as asbestos in soil, construction waste, containers)
	 imported fill (such as ash, coke, slag, coal tar, asbestos)
	 unusually coloured material (such as green clay)
	 132kV transmission cable trenches installed before 1980.
	d) Comply with the general controls in NS174C- <u>Section 5.1</u> .
Note	Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require an environmental management plan to ensure contamination material is suitably managed and handled
	II IN GOUDI, CONTACT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ON 9394 6659.

9. Hazardous materials

Introduction	Asbestos fibres must be prevented from becoming airborne.
	The presence of asbestos must be assessed and where identified, managed in accordance with training, PPE, licencing, record keeping, notification, bagging, transport,tracking, disposal and specific work instruction requirements.
	The presence of lead must be assessed, stored, handled, transported and disposed in accordance with legal requirements and specific work instructions.
Controls for low impact	a) All workers are made aware of the presence of known and suspected Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) or lead.
asbestos	 Ausgrid workers can access the Asbestos Register for the site on The Wire or via the icon on their iPad.
	 For external contractors and ASP's, a copy of the Asbestos Register for the site can be provided by the relevant Project Manager or by emailing hazmat@ausgrid.com.au with the project details.
	b) All works with the potential to disturb ACM must be undertaken in accordance with <u>NS 211</u> and relevant training.
	 Working with ACM requires asbestos training and associated PPE.
	 No removal of > 10m² of non-friable asbestos without a LAR and LAA.
	 No removal of friable asbestos without a LAR and LAA (unless allowed by an <u>exemption</u> for Ausgrid employees).
	 Notify site occupants and neighbouring properties of the commencement date and expected duration of any asbestos removal work.
	 At the completion of works complete and submit <u>Hazmat Remediation &</u> <u>Removal Form (HRR)</u> to <u>Hazmat@ausgrid.com.au</u>.
	c) All works with the potential to disturb lead must be undertaken in accordance with <u>HS014-P0100 Workplace Hazardous Materials</u> (for Ausgrid employees) or relevant <i>SWMS</i> .
	 Arrange cleaning of the proposed work area prior to works commencing (where works might disturb surface dust or paint).
	 Wear appropriate PPE. Minimum requirements typically include:
	 disposable half face respirator with a P2 particulate filter or other respirator as determined by a successful 'fit test'
	 disposable or wipeable gloves
	– Type 5, Category 3 coveralls
	 safety gumboots or lace-less safety boots (non-suede). Practice good personal bygiene – no eating drinking chewing gum
	smoking or practice that involves the potential for hand to mouth transfer.
	d) Comply with the general controls in NS174C- <u>Section 3.1</u> and <u>Section 3.4</u>
Note	If any works cannot meet the above controls, contact the Hazmat Hotline on 9394 6961.

10. Acid sulfate soils

Introduction Acid sulfate soils (ASS) are naturally occurring soils and sediments that contain iron sulfides. They are generally found in low lying areas and near waterways such as rivers, estuaries, wetlands and mangroves.

When ASS is exposed to air, such as by excavating or lowering the water table, the iron sulfides can oxidise to form sulfuric acid. The acid can harm aquatic life, impact groundwater and corrode infrastructure.

ASS must be stored, handled, treated and disposed in accordance with legal requirements.

Controls for low impact works

 All works impacting ASS will require an ASSMP. The risk will depend on the class of ASS and the depth/size of excavation (refer to flow chart in <u>NS174C</u>).

- b) For medium risk projects, Ausgrid employees can use <u>EWMS 167 Acid</u> <u>sulfate soils</u>. Key controls include:
 - minimise ground disturbance
 - minimise the excavation depth
 - minimise the time that soil is exposed to air by staging works and storing soil in a lined and covered skip bin or wrapped in plastic (outside of the zone of influence)
 - re-bury soil to the same depth from which it was excavated, where practicable. In some cases, treatment will be required
 - arrange required testing and treatment prior to disposal.
- c) For high risk projects, a site-specific ASSMP will be required. in accordance with the <u>NSW ASS Manual</u> and <u>ASS Assessment Guidelines</u>.
- d) Comply with the general controls in NS174C-Section 5.2.

Note Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require a specific management plan (such as an Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan).

If in doubt, contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

11. Climate change adaptation

Introduction "<u>We accept unequivocally that human-induced climate change presents a</u> <u>growing threat to our business, economy, society and the planet.</u>" Ausgrid's Climate Change Statement.

Climate change is resulting in more frequent extreme weather events such as heatwaves, bushfires, droughts, storms and flooding as well as gradual changes such as higher sea levels and higher mean high tides. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that based on current emission trends, the sea level will rise 60-110cm by 2100¹.

Flood areas are areas where flood related development controls apply and includes the following four areas:

- **Flood planning area**. The area lower than the Flood Planning Level (FPL). The FPL is generally the 1% AEP plus an appropriate freeboard (typically an additional 0.5m)
- 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood (1 in 100 year flood)
- Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). The largest flood that could possibly occur (known as flood liable land, floodplain or flood prone land).
- Historical flood levels.

Coastal vulnerability areas include areas subject to coastal hazards such as coastal erosion and tidal inundation.

Areas below **projected sea level rise** (1m above mean high-water mark) are likely to be submerged this century.

Controls for low impact works

- a) Kiosk substations should not be installed in **flood areas** or below **projected sea level rise** (1m above mean high-water mark) unless Ausgrid determines there is no reasonable alternative.
- b) Avoid siting infrastructure in **flood areas**, **coastal vulnerability areas**, or below **projected sea level rise** (1m above mean high-water mark) where reasonably practicable.
- c) When siting infrastructure within the **flood planning area** comply with all relevant Network Standards, including:
 - <u>NS113 Site selection and construction design requirements for chamber</u>
 <u>substations</u>
 - <u>NS141 Site selection and site preparation standards for kiosk type</u>
 <u>substations</u>

Note Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and may require a specialist assessment and/or approval from Ausgrid's Asset Management Group.

¹ <u>IPCC</u>: "Sea level will continue to rise for centuries. It could reach around 30-60 cm by 2100 even if greenhouse gas emissions are sharply reduced and global warming is limited to well below 2°C, but around 60-110 cm if greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase strongly."

12. Mine subsidence

Introduction	Approval from the Subsidence Advisory NSW (SANSW) is required to alter or erect improvements within a mine subsidence district or to subdivide land therein. An 'improvement' includes any building work or work erected or constructed on land, any formed road, street, path, walk or driveway and any pipeline, water, sewer, telephone, gas or other service main, whether above or below the surface of the land.
	Ausgrid activities that do not involve the alteration or erection of improvements do not require SANSW approval. This would include emergency works, routine maintenance works and the above or below co-location of cabling on or within existing infrastructure. Note: replacement of a pole with a larger pole would not be considered routine maintenance.
Controls for low impact works	 a) Contact SANSW (<u>subsidenceadvisory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>) for works in mine subsidence areas involving structures and excavations unless: The works are emergency works, routine maintenance works or colocation of cabling on or within existing infrastructure. The works are covered by a deemed approval: <u>https://www.nsw.gov.au/subsidence-advisory/development#toc-exempt-developments</u>
Note	SANSW have advised that in some areas the mines are ~3m below the surface. In this regard they are not concerned about stringing conductors on existing poles or changing crossarms etc. In other cases, such as new poles/lines, they are happy to accept a quick email advising of the nature of the works. In most cases they will respond that no approval will be required.

13. Sydney Harbour Foreshore Area

Introduction Place Management NSW is a statutory corporation with functions including:
protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the foreshore area
promote, coordinate, manage, undertake and secure the orderly and economic development and use of the foreshore area, including the provision of infrastructure.

Controls for low impact works a) No ground disturbance or vegetation impacts in protected harbour foreshore areas unless impacts from works are the minimum extent necessary and are for the purposes of:

- the installation of electricity works, or
- the alteration, maintenance or removal of existing electricity work, or
- maintaining reasonable safety clearances under powerlines, conductors and related structures and around communication sites associated with the supply of electricity.

Note Works that cannot meet the above controls will require further assessment and most likely a permit from Place Management NSW.

If in doubt, contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

14. Sydney Olympic Park Area

Introduction	The Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) is a statutory corporation with responsibilities for the day-to-day management of 430 hectares of parklands and 7 sporting venues. This includes the management of buildings, facilities and landscape assets; delivery of programs and events; conservation of water, energy and resources; and the protection of ecosystems, environment and heritage.
	Authorisation is required for certain activities to avoid causing safety risks for events at the parklands.
Controls for low impact	a) No ground disturbance or vegetation impacts unless authorisation is received from SOPA.
works	Authorisation can be obtained by emailing <u>mark.farran@sopa.nsw.gov.au</u> . Mark can also be contacted on 0439 489 615.
Note	For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.
Controls for low impact works Note	 a) No ground disturbance or vegetation impacts unless authorisation is received from SOPA. Authorisation can be obtained by emailing <u>mark.farran@sopa.nsw.gov.au</u>. Ma can also be contacted on 0439 489 615. For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

15. Special Water Catchment Area

Introduction	Special water catchment areas are large areas of mostly unspoilt bushland surrounding reservoirs that provide drinking water. They are vital to the protection of drinking water because they help filter out pollutants before the water reaches the reservoir.
Controls for low impact	a) All workers to be made aware of special catchment areas and the need to avoid impacts.
works	b) No using pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals without approval from the relevant water authority.
	c) No handling of oils or fuels including the refuelling of plant and equipment without approval from the relevant water authority.
	d) All vehicles working within the catchment area must carry an appropriate spill kit.
	 e) Sydney Special Catchment areas – no works allowed unless consent received from WaterNSW.
	f) Council controlled catchment areas – contact the local council for requirements.
	g) Hunter Water Catchment – prior notification is required for:
	 new power lines outside of an existing easement or alignment (including underground lines)
	 new pole top substations or kiosk substations
	 replacement kiosk or pole top substations in a substantially different location
	any new zone or sub-transmission substation
Note	For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

16. Crown Land

Introduction Land Rights legislation is in place to compensate Aboriginal people for the loss of land which has occurred over successive generations. Through local land councils, land claims can be made for the benefit of their members to claim back land for community purposes. The land must be unused crown land and not required for public purpose. **Controls for** a) Works on Crown lands will require referral to Ausgrid's property section to low impact determine tenure unless the works are: works on public roads or reserves required to maintain, repair or replace an existing asset within an existing • developed footprint or easement on Crown land. If additional disturbance is required outside the existing developed footprint, or if an asset is being upgraded, the works must be referred to Ausgrid's property section. Note For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Ausgrid's Property section.

17. Sydney Harbour Catchment Area

Introduction	The Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 (replaced by State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation)) is in place to ensure Sydney Harbour is recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained. It has a number of aims including protecting ecology, preserving and enhancing views and improving access to the public.
	It requires public authorities to take into consideration a number of factors when planning activities.
Controls for low impact works	 All workers to be made aware of sensitive areas (drainage lines, grates, drains, inlets, exposed surfaces, areas subject to bogging and waterways) and the need to avoid impacts.
	 b) Manage worksite to prevent sediment and unclean water leaving the site (such as minimise ground disturbance, sediment controls, clean vehicles leaving the site, inspect and maintain controls, restore surfaces etc.).
	c) No damaging seagrass, saltmarsh, and mangrove communities
	d) No disturbance of contaminated land or contaminated sediments
	e) When planning works give consideration to:
	 retaining, rehabilitating and restoring riparian land,
	 maintaining a vegetative buffer to protect wetlands,
	 maintaining public access to and along the foreshore, without adversely impacting on watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands or remnant vegetation,
	 maintaining, protecting or enhancing views to and from Sydney Harbour
Note	For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

18. State Significant Development sites

Introduction	Some development on identified sites is classified as State Significant Development under SEPP (Precincts) - various. Identified sites include Sydney Olympic Park, Darling Harbour, the Bays Precinct and Barangaroo.
	The Minister for Planning (and in some cases the Independent Planning Commission) is the consent authority for SSD applications.
Controls for low impact	 a) Ministerial consent is required for development on State Significant Sites exceeding certain thresholds.
WOINS	The thresholds are typically >\$10M however it depends on the site.
	Details here > <u>https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2011/511/sch2</u>
Note	For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

19. Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation sites

Introduction	The Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme is designed to lessen the effects of flooding on both rural and urban areas, reducing flood damage by modifying flood behaviour.
	Consent is required for construction works within a certain distance of mitigation infrastructure.
Controls for low impact works	 a) No construction works within 10m of a Levee without approval b) No construction works within 10m of a Drainage Channel without approval c) No construction works within 50m of a Spillway without approval Approval can be obtained by emailing <u>Info.hvfms@environment.nsw.gov.au</u> – marked attention Ian Jackson – Flood Plain Engineer.
Note	For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

20. Access tracks

Introduction	Poor maintenance or use of access tracks can lead to safety issues or erosion (leading to pollution of waters).
Controls for low impact works	 a) Check the condition of access tracks before use and report any issues such as erosion, blocked access or dumped waste.
	b) Lock gates when leaving the access track.
	c) Keep to the access track and avoid entering undisturbed areas.
	 Where practicable avoid using access tracks during wet weather. If unavoidable assess the track suitability and implement controls to effectively mitigate any impacts.
	 Prior to using access tracks, ensure vehicles and equipment are free of weeds, mud and soil to prevent the spread of weeds and pathogens (see NS174C-<u>Section 6.3</u>).
	f) Routine maintenance of tracks must be in accordance with <u>NSW Erosion and</u> <u>sediment control on unsealed roads</u> .
	 g) Maintenance of access tracks in national park estate will require a conservation risk assessment (CRA) to be submitted to NPWS.
	h) No new access tracks or upgrades to existing tracks.
Note	Works that cannot meet the above controls will require a specialist assessment and most likely an environmental planning approval (such as SER or REF).
	If in doubt contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

21. Licences and Trade Waste Permits

Introduction	Ausgrid has an Environment Protection Licence for the storage of waste oil and PCBs at Homebush Depot. Ausgrid also has a PCB licence which contains additional requirements for the transport, handling and storage of PCB waste and material – refer to 22. PCBs. Ausgrid has trade waste permits for washbays at a number of depots.
Controls for low impact works	a) Comply with licence conditions when working at Homebush Depot. Conditions include:
	 Notifying the depot manager in the event of an incident.
	 Carry out activities in a competent manner, maintain plant and equipment, have an emergency response plan, separate wastes for recycling, bund/contain above ground tanks, and have suitable measures in place to prevent spills.
	 Specific requirements applying to storage and handling of PCBs.
	 b) Use of washbays needs to comply with the permit from the relevant sewerage authority. Typical requirements include:
	 Only wash water is to enter the washbay drain (such as no oil, hydraulic fluid or degreaser).
	 Use only 'quick break' detergents to allow any oil in the water to be quickly separated from the water (allows the oil to rise to the surface and form larger droplets allowing for better removal by the plate separator).
	 Clean up oil and chemical spills and leaks immediately using spill absorbents.
	 Remove debris from the washbay slab and drain after each use and appropriately dispose.
Note	For works that cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

22.PCBs	
Introduction	PCBs may be present in transformers, current transformers (CTs), voltage transformers (VTs), oil circuit breakers (OCBs), fluid filled cables and lighting capacitors.
	PCBs must be prevented from entering the environment. PCBs must be classified, stored, handled, transported and disposed in accordance with legal requirements. Labelling and licensing is required for the transport and storage of certain PCB wastes.
Controls for low impact	a) Clearly label PCB waste and have appropriate spill kits, response procedures and PPE accessible.
works	b) Store PCB material in bunded and secure areas.
	c) Scheduled PCBs (PCB concentration ≥ 50ppm) must be stored in a bunded area which is roofed with no drainage outlets, in a secured storage area to prevent unlawful entry and located at least 12 m away from flammable or combustible liquids, suitably labelled, and have an appropriate spill kit and PPE accessible.
	 Ausgrid staff can transport Scheduled PCBs between Ausgrid premises. In all other cases, transporting Scheduled PCBs requires an Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Licence (> 1t).
	e) When transporting Scheduled PCBs workers must carry specific PPE, safety equipment, Emergency Response Guides in an emergency information holder on the transport vehicle, and Placard the vehicle in accordance with the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code (a Dangerous Goods licence is required for transporting receptacles > 500kg).
	 f) Toarrange disposal Ausgrid employees can contact Supply Chain Operations. Request forms are available on the Reclamation page on the Wire
	g) Comply with the general controls in NS174C-Section 3.2.
Note	If any works cannot meet the above controls contact Environmental Services on 9394 6659.

23. Classified roads

Introduction Classified roads fall into three major categories, State roads, regional roads and local roads. They include freeways, state highways, main roads, tourist roads and collector roads.

If works are proposed on a classified road, consent and a road occupancy licence will be required.

Controls for low impact works

For works on a TfNSW classified road:

- a) Apply for consent from TfNSW (State roads) or the relevant local council (regional roads and local roads) to request approval, providing a description of the work and including a plan showing the extent of the works.
- b) Apply for a road occupancy licence (ROL) as outlined in Appendix 6 of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Ausgrid and TfNSW (Ausgrid employees).
- c) For out of hours work, comply with the general controls in NS174C Section 4.2.

An ROL is required in the Sydney region for all classified state roads, classified regional roads, and local roads within 100 m of a traffic signal or a classified state road, and in the Hunter region for all classified state roads.

Ausgrid employees should use the relevant templates from Appendix 1 of Ausgrid's Procedure to Seek Consent Under Section 138 of the Roads Act.

24. Radio frequency antennas

Introduction Radio communications systems use the radio frequency (RF) part of the electromagnetic spectrum between 3 kilohertz (kHz) and 300 gigahertz (GHz). These include television, AM and FM radio broadcasting, mobile phones and their base stations, paging services, cordless phones, baby monitors, and emergency and rural communication systems.

Heating of body tissues is possible if exposed to RF electromagnetic energy (EME) above recommended exposure limits. Shocks are also possible if touching an energised RF transmitter.

Public exposure limits are set to protect the public and form the basis of exclusion zones. These typically extend a few meters out from the antenna, but in some cases can be more. Look for signage near the antenna.

Controls for low impact works	Where work may come within an antenna's general public exclusion zone:
	 a) Workers must comply with <u>NS102 Working on or near poles with</u> <u>telecommunication transmitters</u> which requires notification, de-energisation, testing, confirmation and isolation of mobile phone transmitter antennas.

b) Additional site-specific information can be found at www.rfnsa.com.au using the detail provided on Ausgrid's WebGIS-Environmental Layers.

25. Bushfire prone land

Introduction Bushfire prone land means land identified by local council which can support a bushfire or is subject to bushfire attack. Bushfire prone land maps are certified by the Commissioner of the RFS.

Additional precautions should be considered and discussed as part of the HAC process. Live works on bushfire prone land during a Total Fire Ban will need to be postponed or comply with a number of exemption/notification requirements.

Section 63(1) of the Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW) requires public authorities to take all notified steps (if any) and any other practicable steps to prevent the occurrence of bushfires on, and to minimise the danger of the spread of bushfire.

Controls for
low impactFor live works in bushfire prone land (or hot works in the open) during a Total Fire
Ban either:worksDestaurant the works of the second section of the second s

- a) Postpone the works or use alternative methods (preferred option), or
- b) If an exemption is gazetted for that day, comply with the exemption/notification requirements.

For more information refer to NS174C Section 6.4.

Where there are no reasonably practical alternatives for siting assets in bushfire prone land additional controls will apply. Examples of these controls include increased vegetation clearances, more regular inspections, installation of LV spacers etc. Some relevant Network Standards include:

- a) NS179 Vegetation Management
- b) NS187 Fire Mitigation Design of Major Substations
- c) NS 125 Construction of LV Overhead Mains

26. Sensitive environmental feature layer

Introduction	The sensitive environmental feature layer is used to record specific information not otherwise available on the other data layers. Examples include contaminated land, Aboriginal heritage, sensitive ecology, areas containing known pathogens, previous incidents, and restricted areas.
Controls for low impact works	 a) Where impacts are not clearly avoidable contact Environmental Services for more information. <u>environmentalservices@ausgrid.com.au</u> or on 9394 6659.

27. Easements, leases, or rights of way

Introduction Wherever practicable, network assets are located in public roads or public reserves (such as parks).

Where Network distribution assets are to be located on private land, Ausgrid requires legal protection for these assets through the acquisition of tenure, including easements, leases, or rights of way. An interest in land does not necessarily give Ausgrid exclusive right to the land - the owner is generally only prevented from doing anything that could restrict Ausgrid's use of the interest, or create a safety hazard for themselves or others.

Controls for low impact works a) Works undertaken in easements, lease and rights of way should be consistent with the terms of the instrument.

28. Powerful owls

Introduction Powerful owls are a NSW listed threatened species. Their breeding season is April to October.

Disturbing nesting owls can lead to owls abandoning the nest and their young. Powerful owls have also attacked people while defending their nests.

Controls for low impact works

General conditions include (all year round):

- b) All workers to be made aware of powerful owl breeding territories in the area.
- c) Where possible, no noisy works (such as chainsaws or mulching)
 - between an hour before sunset and an hour after sunrise (refer to sunrise calculator) or
 - within 100m of identified roost sites.
- d) If impacting large hollow-bearing trees (trunk diameter > 80cm at 1m above ground) and hollows > 30cm diameter, contact a NPWS Area Office.
- e) Retain all hollows and all horizontal perching branches of 4-10cm diameter in flyways (such as overhanging creeks and tracks) where possible.
- f) Avoid trimming of horizontal branches within 1m of tree hollows > 30cm diameter where possible.
- g) Avoid vegetation trimming that opens the canopy in riparian zones (typically up to 15m from a creek/riverbank) where possible.
- h) Report powerful owl deaths to Environmental Services on 02 9394 6659.

Breeding Season: April to October (in addition to the general conditions):

- i) Contact Birdlife Australia at least 2 weeks prior to works commencing.
- No works within 100m of an identified nesting tree or mapped breeding territory during the breeding season without first undertaking an inspection for nesting owls.
- k) Only hand tools are to be used within 50m of roost trees and 100m of nest trees.
- I) Comply with additional conditions for individual sites at the discretion of NPWS when working in national park estate.