

# 2024 Compliance Report

## Legislated Bushfire Mitigation Programs

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## 1 Overview

Section 120P of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* (Vic)<sup>1</sup> (**the Act**) requires Major Electricity Companies (**MECs**), to submit an annual compliance report to Energy Safe Victoria before 1 August each year, commencing 1 August 2018.

The MEC must include in the report, details of works completed over the previous reporting period and works planned for the next reporting period in relation to the following legislated bushfire mitigation programs:

- Installation of Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (**REFCL**) technology within twenty-two of AusNet Services' zone substations by 1 May 2023, (section 120M of the Act);
- Installation of insulated or covered high voltage (1kV-22kV) for any new span/s or replacement of  $\geq 4$  consecutive spans of powerlines within 'electric line construction areas' (**ELCA**), (section 120N of the Act); and
- Installation of remote-controlled Automatic Circuit Reclosers (**ACRs**) on all Single Wire Earth Return (**SWER**) systems, (section 120O of the Act).

This Compliance Report contains the information and presentation in the form required by Energy Safe Victoria's 'Specification for S120P Annual Compliance Reports'

AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd (**AusNet**), the licence holder for the distribution network, is the MEC responsible for preparation and submission of this Compliance Report.

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<sup>1</sup> Authorised version No. 081 (Authorised Version incorporating amendments as at 1 January 2021)

## 2 Reporting period

The reporting period means the year beginning 1 May and ending the following 30 April.

This compliance report covers the following reporting periods:

- Reporting period (actual works): 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024; and
- Next reporting period (planned works): 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025.

# 3 Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters

## 3.1 Context

The *Electricity Safety Act 1998 (the Act)* requires zone substations in which REFCL technology has been prescribed, to be implemented by 1 May 2023.

At the commencement of the REFCL deployment, the Act required AusNet Services to ensure:

- at 1 May 2019, the points allocated to prescribed zone substations upgraded with REFCL, when totalled, are not less than 30;
- at 1 May 2021, the points allocated to zone substations upgraded with REFCL, when totalled, are not less than 55; and
- on and from 1 May 2023, each polyphase electric line originating from every AusNet Services prescribed zone substation has the required capacity (64 points).

Accordingly, the AusNet REFCL Program was structured into three separate tranches in order to achieve the 'points' requirement by the mandated dates.

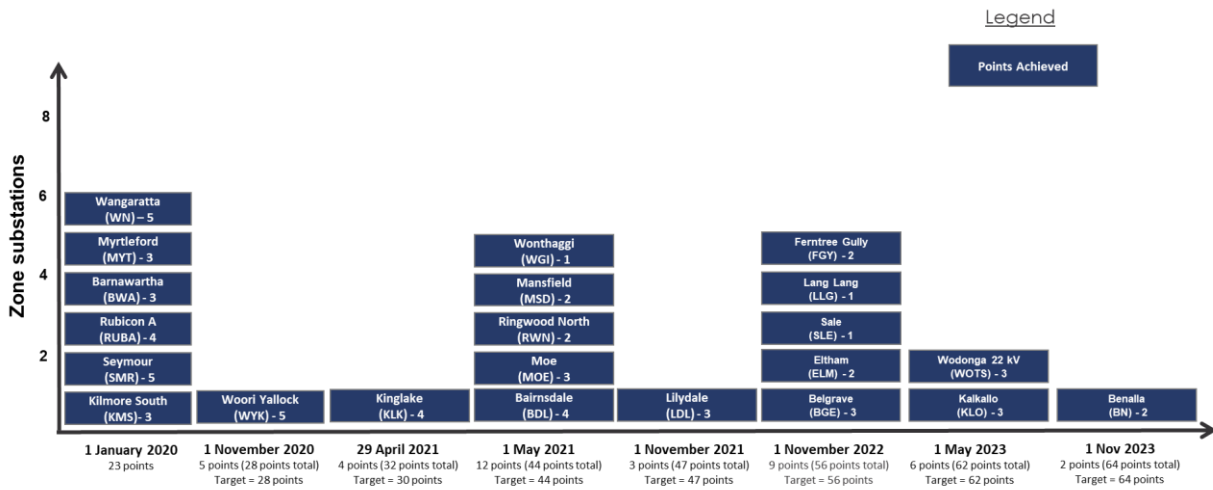
Subsequently, as a result of a number of extensions of time being granted by Energy Safe Victoria<sup>2</sup> due to network characteristics and/or High Voltage Customer REFCL-readiness delays preventing compliance with the mandated performance criteria being demonstrated, the AusNet REFCL Program is being delivered to meet the following compliance deadlines:

- 1 January 2020 – 23 points
- 1 November 2020 – 28 points
- 29 April 2021 – 30 points
- 1 May 2021 – 44 points
- 1 November 2021 – 47 points
- 1 November 2022 – 55 points
- 1 November 2023 – 64 points

Figure 1 shows the specified zone substations by compliance deadline as at 30 April 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Energy Safe Victoria granted an extension of time (EoT) in relation to the 'initial period' on 12 July 2019. This EoT was subsequently superseded by an EoT granted on 21 November 2019 which amended the commencement of the 'initial period' from 1 May 2019 to 29 April 2021. On 27 April 2021, the Energy Safe Victoria Commission granted an EoT in relation to the 'intermediate period' which amended the commencement date from 1 May 2021 to 1 November 2022. On 28 April 2023 the Energy Safe Victoria Commission granted an EoT for the third tranche with a completion date of 1 November 2023.

**Figure 1: Overview of AusNet Services REFCL Program by Compliance Deadline**



Source: AusNet Services

## 3.2 REFCL Program Status as at 30 April 2024

Figure 1 shows that AusNet completed the full implementation of REFCLs at all 22 prescribed zone substations by the Extension of Time granted for achievement of 64 points by 1 November 2023.

The table below contains information, in the prescribed form, for the remaining zone substation requiring REFCL implementation.

Note: The REFCL implementation at the following zone substations was completed prior to 30 April 2023 hence the following 21 zone substations are not included in this report:

- Barnawartha (BWA)
- Kilmore South (KMS)
- Myrtleford (MYT)
- Rubicon A (RUBA)
- Seymour (SMR)
- Wangaratta (WN)
- Wonthaggi (WGI)
- Woori Yallock (WYK)
- Kinglake (KLK)
- Mansfield (MSD)
- Ringwood North (RWN)
- Moe (MOE)
- Bairnsdale (BDL)
- Lilydale (LDL)
- Ferntree Gully (FGY)

- Lang Lang (LLG)
- Sale (SLE)
- Eltham (ELM)
- Belgrave (BGE)
- Wodonga (WOTS)
- Kalkallo (KLO)

The table below provides the implementation status as at 30 April 2024 for the remaining zone substation, Benalla, that achieved compliance on 21 September 2023.

### 3.2.1 Tranche 3: Benalla (BN) Zone Substation

BN REFCL Project Activities		Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Weighting
<b>Initiate</b>	Business Case commenced	16/11/2018	100%	10%
	Business Case approval	25/08/2020		
<b>Design</b>	Design commenced	03/02/2020	100%	15%
	Design complete	24/03/2022		
<b>Procurement</b>	Number of REFCL units required	1		
	REFCL order placed	18/12/2020	100%	10%
	REFCL delivered to site	22/02/2022		
<b>Construction - Lines</b>	Line works commenced	01/04/2020	100%	20%
	Line works complete	12/08/2022		
<b>Construction - Stations</b>	Station works commenced	26/07/2021	100%	20%
	Station works complete	12/08/2022		
<b>Construction - Third Party</b>	Number of affected HV Customer Connections	2		
	HV customer works commenced	01/07/2018	100%	10%
	HV customer works complete	03/10/2022		
<b>Testing / Commissioning</b>	REFCL testing / commissioning commenced	05/12/2022	100%	10%
	REFCL commissioned and operable	21/09/2023		
<b>Close Out</b>	REFCL at "required capacity"	21/09/2023	100%	5%
<b>Total Weighted Percentage Complete</b>			100%	

This zone substation is located at -36°55'16" latitude, 145°9'8" longitude.

## 4 Insulated Powerlines in Electric Line Construction Areas

This section reports the volume of high voltage bare wire and insulated powerlines within prescribed 'electric line construction areas'.

The *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013* require all new and replacement (≥4 consecutive spans) powerlines be constructed with insulated or covered wire.

### 4.1 Program Status as at 30 April 2024

The table below indicates the change in volumes (km) of bare and insulated powerline between 1 May 2023 and 30 April 2024.

Total HV Electric Line Volumes	At 1 May 2023	At 30 April 2024	Progress over Reporting Period
<b>Bare construction in ELCA</b>	Route km	Route km	Route km
Polyphase	773.97	773.92	(0.05)
SWER	623.09	623.09	-
<b>Covered or underground construction in ELCA</b>	Route km	Route km	Route km
Polyphase	309.32	309.26	(0.06)
SWER	28.15	28.15	-

As at the 30 April 2024 the percentage of total route kilometres of all bare conductors remaining within Electric Line Construction Areas is 80.5%.

Information relating to changes to these powerlines over the reporting period is expanded by feeder below:

SAP ID	Electric Line Construction Area	Feeder	Reason/Driver	Asset Specification	Previous Construction	Date Installed	Length(km)	Previous Phasing	Nominal voltage
DL-CO035-2600811461	LEGL/16-229	bge13	Decommissioned	7/4.75_AAC_Bare_Unk	Overhead Barewire	1/01/1970	0.0530	Polyphase	22.000 kV
DL-DM001-2600854890	LEGL/16-224	klk11	Decommissioned	150mm_a (Al)_xh-SCS_50	Overhead Covered Wire	24/05/2018	0.0565	Polyphase	22.000 kV

### 4.2 Planned Program Works 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025

The table below indicates the planned change in volumes (km) of bare and insulated powerline between 1 May 2024 and 30 April 2025.

Total HV Electric Line Volumes	At 1 May 2024	At 30 April 2025	Progress over Reporting Period
<b>Bare construction in ELCA</b>	Route km	Route km	Route km
Polyphase	773.87	773.87	-
SWER	622.54	592.47	(30.08)
<b>Covered or underground construction in ELCA</b>	Route km	Route km	Route km
Polyphase	309.26	309.26	-
SWER	28.15	58.23	30.08

The planned percentage of total route kilometres of bare conductor remaining within Electric Line Construction Areas as at 30 April 2025 is forecast to be 78.8%.



# 5 Automatic Circuit Reclosers on SWER Networks

AusNet Services completed the installation of Automatic Circuit Reclosers on all SWER networks in December 2015.

## 6 Board Approval

The Board of AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd has reviewed and approved this Compliance Report.



David Smales

Chief Executive Officer