



2024 Annual Ring-fencing Compliance Report

April 2025



Empowering South Australia

Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1. Key Interpretations	2
2. 2024 compliance	3
2.1. Breach relating to provision of ‘Other Services’	3
2.2. Breach relating to the obligation to protect ring-fenced information	4
3. Summary of prior year findings and actions	4
4. Compliance measures and actions undertaken in 2024	5
4.1. Additional information on compliance measures	5
4.2. Legal Separation	6
4.3. Establish and maintain accounts	7
4.4. Obligation to not discriminate	7
4.5. Physical separation/co-location and staff sharing	8
4.6. Branding and cross-promotion	10
4.7. Office and staff registers	10
4.8. Protection of ring-fenced information	11
4.9. Disclosure of information	11
4.10. Sharing of information	12
4.11. Information register	13
4.12. Conduct of service providers	13
4.13. Waiver register	13
4.14. Compliance and enforcement	15
5. Other services	15
6. Transactions between the DNSP and affiliated entities	17
7. Attachments	18
8. Appendix A – Key SA Power Networks Ring-fencing compliance documents	19

1. Introduction

SA Power Networks' 2024 Annual Ring-fencing Compliance Report provides details of the actions that we have undertaken to ensure compliance with the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER's) Ring-fencing Guideline dated November 2021 (**Guideline**). This report covers the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

We have largely retained the same format as the last report, updating information and compliance actions where developments have occurred. In some areas there have been no changes and we restate the same information provided in previous reports, where still relevant, for completeness.

SA Power Networks reported two breaches of the Guideline related to activities during the 2024 period. Further detail is provided in Section 2.

Section 3 of this Annual Ring-fencing Compliance Report (**Report**) summarises prior period compliance findings, recommendations and actions taken.

Throughout this Report, there are references to documents that have been created or already existed prior to 1 January 2018, that support ring-fencing compliance. The references align with those in Appendix A, which appear as '[alphabetic reference].[document number]'. Appendix A provides a brief description of each document referred to.

1.1. Key Interpretations

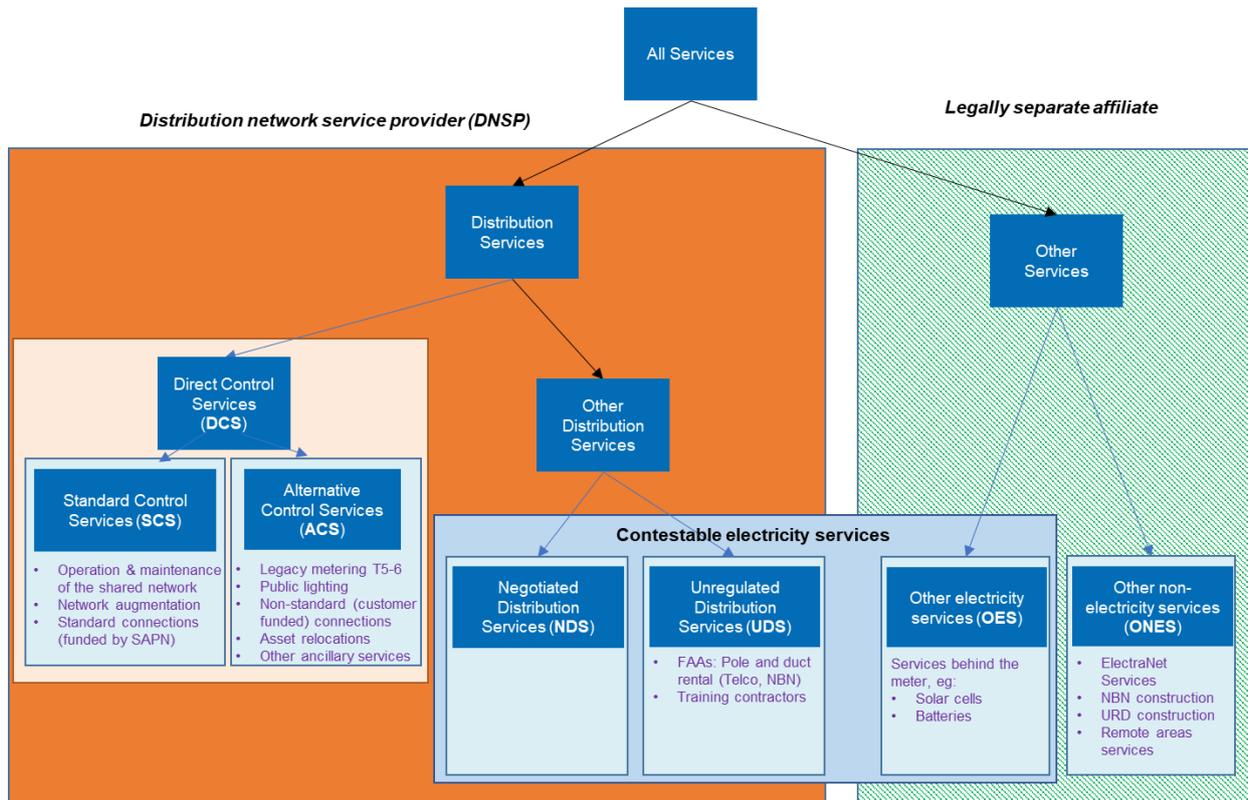
Compliance implementation was guided by our general interpretations of the guideline, as follows:

1. Only services provided in connection with our own distribution network are distribution services—work on, or for, other networks must therefore be undertaken by our affiliates (except where an exemption applies under the Guideline).
2. If an affiliate provides services on our behalf, we must ensure it complies with ring-fencing obligations just as any service provider must. However, where an affiliate undertakes work for a different party, ring-fencing does not apply to the affiliate; except to the extent that the affiliates' provision of services to the other party affects its relationship with us.¹
3. Staff involved in providing our direct control services may also be involved in the provision of services by our affiliate, subject to meeting certain conditions:
 - The roles and activities of any shared staff must accord with one of the exclusions listed in the Guideline; or
 - The services in question are 'other non-electricity services'², typically construction, maintenance and infrastructure services provided to customers that are not connected to our distribution network and include property developers and other electricity and telecommunications utilities. For the avoidance of doubt, where any of our affiliate's customers provide electricity services, our affiliate is providing an input to these services and is not providing services direct to their customers—that is, our affiliate is not providing electricity services in these circumstances. Figure 1 overlays a non-exhaustive list of these and other services that we provide, onto the diagram from the AER's Explanatory Statement.

¹ If our affiliate provides services to a party other than SA Power Networks, we must ensure our affiliate is not using SA Power Networks' regulated funds to cross-subsidise its activities.

² AER, *Electricity distribution ring-fencing guideline – Explanatory statement*, November 2016, Figure 1, page 14.

Figure 1 - Mapping ring-fencing to distribution services



SA Power Networks does not provide any Negotiated Distribution Services.

2. 2024 compliance

SA Power Networks had two breaches of the Guideline during the 2024 compliance period. These breaches related to section 3.1(b) provision of ‘Other Services’ and section 4.3.1 protection of ring-fenced information.

2.1. Breach relating to provision of ‘Other Services’

This breach was previously reported in our 2023 annual compliance report and was ongoing throughout most of the 2024 reporting period.

It related to an infrastructure construction and maintenance contract for the provision of ‘other services’ that was in place prior to the commencement of the AER's 2017 Ring-fencing Guideline. SA Power Networks had a ring-fencing waiver in effect, which allowed us to continue providing these services until 30 June 2023. The work under this contract is completed by our affiliate Enerven, however the contract continued to be between SA Power Networks and the customer. We had anticipated this contract would expire prior to this date. However, due to customer-related delays, the customer exercised its unilateral and automatic right to extend the contract beyond 30 June 2023. ‘Other services’ continued to be provided after 30 June 2023 without a waiver in place, placing SA Power Networks in breach of the Guideline.

The breach was identified in preparing our 2023 annual ring-fencing compliance report and reported to the AER on 19 April 2024. At that time, we expected the final work for this project would be completed by 31 August 2024. Noting the timing for a new waiver approval and that, if approved, the waiver would only apply to future work undertaken, not retrospectively, SA Power Networks decided not to seek an additional waiver for this project.

Further customer related delays resulted in the inability to complete all required work by August 2024, with practical completion occurring on 11 December 2024. No further work has been completed since this date.

2.2. Breach relating to the obligation to protect ring-fenced information

During our routine quarterly system access compliance checks it was identified that nine Enerven staff had been inadvertently provided access to ring-fenced GIS customer data. This was due to human error, where the process for assigning certain IT application configuration profiles which determined user's access had been altered.

We note, while these Enerven staff had access to ring-fenced information it is unlikely any of the staff would have been aware they could access the additional ring-fenced GIS customer data. Furthermore, none of the staff had in performing their roles the capacity to use the GIS customer data to engage in conduct that would be in contravention of clause 4.1 of the Guideline.

SA Power Networks immediately removed access for the nine Enerven staff. We also reinforced SA Power Networks' ring-fencing obligations with the IT teams involved, and remediated the configuration assignment process.

This breach was reported to the AER on 1 May 2024.

3. Summary of prior year findings and actions

During the prior reporting period, 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, SA Power Networks reported one breach related to the provision of 'Other Services', as discussed in section 2.1 above.

Deloitte recommended SA Power Networks' management review all waivers due to expire on a timely basis to make sure any extensions are approved by the AER before they expire. SA Power Networks has revised our internal procedures to conduct quarterly reviews of waivers, in tandem with our assessment and update of our office and staff sharing registers. This will ensure that if any extensions are needed, we will apply for new waivers before their expiration to ensure ongoing compliance.

Deloitte also recommended that a process be implemented to regularly refresh and reinforce employees' understanding of the Guideline to reduce the risk of breaches. SA Power Networks provided ring-fencing refresher training to procurement, legal and IT staff over the 2024 reporting period. Noting the changes in SA Power Networks operating model, we also reinforced senior managers specific ring-fencing obligations as part our 2024 management assurance process. A ring-fencing article was also included within our internal newsletter to reinforce the obligations for all staff.

We also note as part of our 2018/19 compliance report, Deloitte recommended that hard controls be implemented in our SAP and Non-SAP systems. SA Power Networks proposed an IT project to strengthen controls in our SAP and Non-SAP systems as part of our 2020-25 distribution determination process. This was approved in the AER's Final Decision in June 2020.

Separate company codes were implemented in our SAP system in April 2022, with the project to close out all open work orders and transition them to the new Enerven company code completed in September 2023. We continued to monitor access throughout 2024, with no instances detected of Enerven staff accessing ring-fenced information other than in accordance with the Guideline.

Non-SAP Access Controls

As part of the project to review controls for non-SAP applications, SA Power Networks completed an internal audit of ring-fencing compliance for non-SAP environment applications in November 2022. The objective of this internal audit was to ensure SA Power Networks non-SAP environment applications are compliant with the Guideline requirements. The audit did not find any breaches, however a number of recommendations were suggested to improve controls for non-SAP applications. These included the following:

- Enhance current Data Governance guidelines to allow for ring-fenced sensitive data rules;
- Implement and configure Microsoft Data Loss Protection (DLP) to identify potentially sensitive ring-fenced data; and
- Investigate and establish a link between our IIQ and ServiceNow applications to clearly identify non-SAP ring-fencing requirements and automate notification to system owners and administrators as required.

Throughout the 2024 calendar year, we have revised the Data Governance guidelines to allow for ring-fenced sensitive data rules.

Additionally, we have also conducted a comprehensive review of the technology solutions required to facilitate the implementation of the other recommendations. This investigation highlighted the technical complexity of solutions required to mitigate much of the risk. We are continuing to investigate options, including how we can use DLP to identify and tag ring-fenced data across all non-SAP applications.

Planning is underway with an implementation date yet to be confirmed.

4. Compliance measures and actions undertaken in 2024

Key internal documents related to our ongoing compliance program are summarised at the end of this Report in Appendix A alongside each Guideline obligation.

Information provided in this Report is not exhaustive, but provides some detail on ongoing key compliance controls, in addition to those already provided above.

4.1. Additional information on compliance measures

4.1.1. Training and awareness activities

Ring-fencing training (Appendix A, G.1) is mandatory for all new SA Power Networks and Enerven staff. The training highlights the Guideline obligations, including a high-level overview of each section, and provides some examples and case studies. Refresher training is also undertaken for select employees.

Ring-fencing content is also included within SA Power Networks corporate induction day, enabling the Executive to reinforce the importance for all new starters.

Quick Reference Guides that remind all staff of their obligations in respect to staff and office sharing restrictions, protection of ring-fenced information, branding and cross promotion are available on our central knowledge library. Quick links are also available off the regulation hub intranet page.

Internal newsletter articles highlight the importance of their obligations in particular with how possible breaches can occur, and are available on our internal intranet.

4.1.2. Internal compliance reports

A compliance questionnaire (C.2) is issued to senior managers in all SA Power Networks departments annually. This questionnaire lists the obligations assigned to individual managers, along with reference documentation and explanatory notes where appropriate. The managers must review and complete the questionnaire, declaring they are ‘compliant’ (or otherwise) against each obligation. They are also asked to state their mechanism/s for compliance, and any other relevant comments including actions to address any non-compliances.

The questionnaires remind managers of their ring-fencing obligations, identify areas of potential concern including risk areas which may require follow up conversations; and highlight training requirements and where other controls may be required.

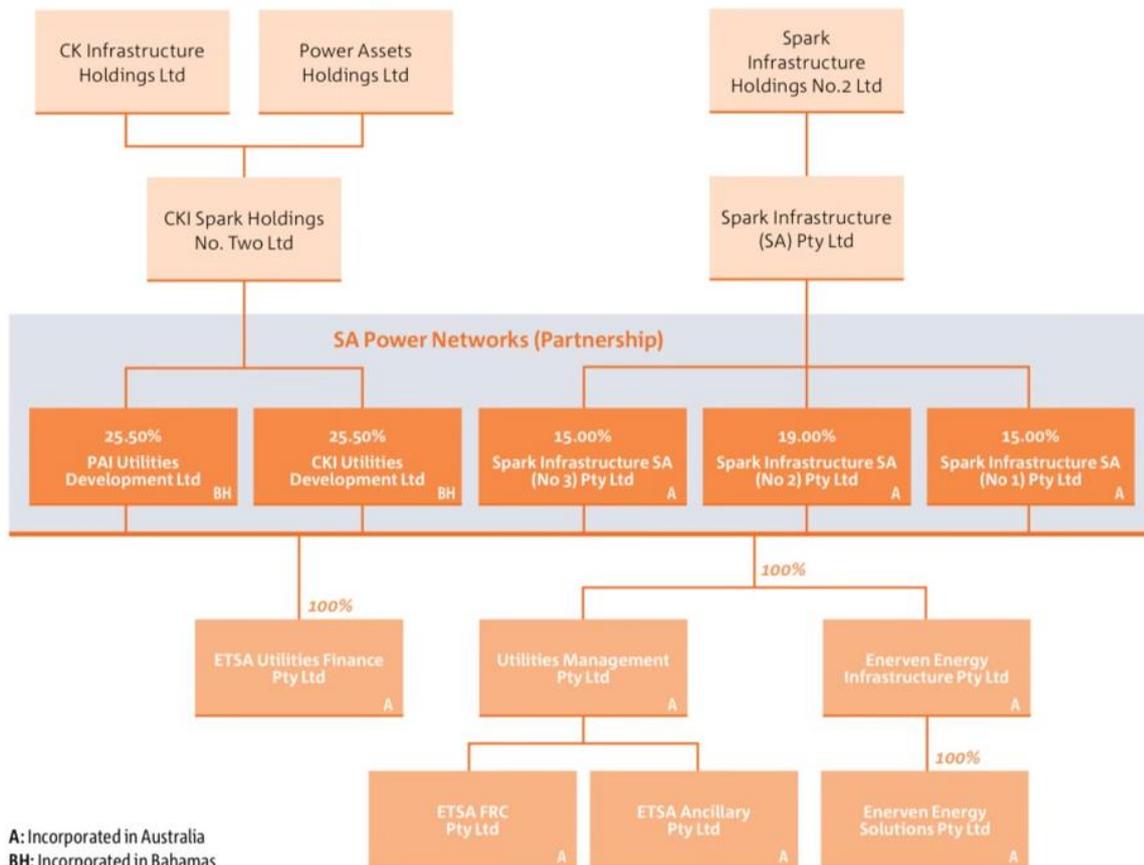
4.2. Legal Separation

The legal separation obligations in the Guideline require that SA Power Networks only provide distribution services, and prevents SA Power Networks from using regulated funds to subsidise affiliates. The obligations do not prevent affiliates from providing non-distribution services.

The SA Power Networks’ partnership corporate structure, is set out in Figure 2 below.

SA Power Networks is a partnership comprising five corporate entities. The Guideline defines ‘legal entity’ to include a partnership. The SA Power Networks partnership is the Registered DNSP (L.1). All staff are employed by Utilities Management Pty Ltd (UMPL) subsidiary.

Figure 2: SA Power Networks Partnership corporate structure



In 2024, all non-distribution services continued to be provided through SA Power Networks' affiliate, Enerven Energy Infrastructure Pty Ltd, excepting services provided under one pre-existing contract.

4.3. Establish and maintain accounts

We must establish and maintain appropriate internal accounting procedures to ensure that we can demonstrate the extent and nature of transactions with our affiliates. Further, we must allocate or attribute costs in accordance with the Cost Allocation Principles and our AER-approved Cost Allocation Method (**CAM**).

SA Power Networks' current AER approved CAM (**F.2**) is effective from 1 July 2020. This CAM reflects SA Power Networks' classification of services for the 2020-25 regulatory control period.

4.3.1. Compliance actions

To comply with the Guideline, separate financial accounts are established for our affiliate entities. Costs are attributed or allocated to regulated and unregulated activities in accordance with the CAM, which also identifies how corporate costs are allocated between each function. In addition, to ensure ring-fencing compliance we also:

- Maintain a Provision of Inter-Company Labour Services Guideline to ensure appropriate distribution of employee costs from Utilities Management Pty Ltd to distribution and non-distribution services, including transparent identification of inter-company transactions (**F.3**);
- Produce reports to capture the extent and nature of affiliate transactions by functional area. These reports are provided to key finance personnel on a six-monthly basis for review. The annual version of these reports is used to generate our final Affiliate Transaction Report (refer **Attachment 1**); and
- Generate half-yearly workbooks that show the direct attribution or allocation of corporate overheads between distribution and non-distribution services in accordance with SA Power Networks' CAM. Compliance is assessed by an independent external audit of the information contained in our Regulatory Accounts and associated AER Regulatory Information Notices (**RINs**)³.

4.4. Obligation to not discriminate

We must not discriminate in favour of affiliates or the customers of affiliates. This obligation applies generally, but also with specific reference to the terms and conditions, timeliness, and quality of services that we offer and provide to other parties.

4.4.1. Compliance actions

The corporate Procurement Directive (**D.2**), Procure to Pay Guideline and Strategic Sourcing Framework (**D.3**) provide business-wide direction on procurement activities, which includes engaging with any third party, including Enerven.

The Shared Services Engaging Enerven Guideline (**D.1**) provides information and advice on how to engage with Enerven when procuring goods and/or services on behalf of SA Power Networks' regulated business. The governance framework in the guideline requires multiple steps to ensure no discrimination occurs. This includes an Engagement Matrix that includes the entire procurement context, including value, market assessment, and complexity assessment.

Service agreements (**F.7**) continue to operate to provide the basis on which certain services (including corporate services) are provided.

³ The allocation of the CAM for the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 will be audited as part of our 2024/25 RIO, which will be submitted to the AER in November 2025.

4.5. Physical separation/co-location and staff sharing

Direct control services staff are not to be shared or co-located with the staff of affiliates where the affiliates are providing 'contestable electricity services', except where these staff:

- Do not have access to electricity information;
- Have access to electricity information but cannot use that information to engage in discriminatory conduct in performing their role;
- Only use electricity information to provide corporate services;
- Are located in a regional office; or
- Are providing assistance to another network service provider in response to an emergency or uncontrollable event.

Staff providing 'other non-electricity services' may be shared.

4.5.1. Compliance actions

Physical separation

Location sharing analysis was again conducted by the Finance and Regulation teams, using organisational data from our HR system to highlight locations where both regulated and contestable services are provided. The duties of each staff member in shared locations are assessed and whether exemptions under the Guideline apply. These shared locations and the exemptions applicable are listed in our Office Sharing Register (**R.2**).

An Office Sharing Guideline (**O.1**) and Office Sharing Quick Reference Guide (**O.2**) are maintained within the internal Quality Management System Knowledge Library, and details are provided to all staff via the training module and a corporate communication bulletin (respectively). These documents provide guidance and practical examples for staff on where they can and cannot co-locate.

Company-wide Directives and Policies are also in place, including the Ring-fencing Corporate Compliance Directive, Code of Conduct, Information Security Directive, and Information Classification and Handling Directive. There are also broader privacy considerations within the Privacy Act, which all staff must legally adhere to. For example, ring-fenced information cannot be used or disclosed for any other purpose other than the reason for which it is collected (Australian Privacy Principle 6).

The Keswick Head Office (**Head Office**) houses a number of departments. Many are corporate services, including People and Culture, Governance and Risk, and Finance and Corporate Services. As permitted by the Guideline (and outlined in the Explanatory Statement) certain corporate services are shared between SA Power Networks and its affiliate.

Head Office is also the location of our Customer and Strategy, and Asset Management and Operations departments. Staff within these business areas may have access to ring-fenced electricity information that is required to complete distribution work, including customer and network information. This information is not in the public domain and is not available to Enerven or any other visitors to Head Office.

Head Office does not permanently house any affiliate (Enerven) staff. Enerven staff have access to the building for corporate services functions, including participation in meetings. Access is restricted to the Network Operations Centre, Telecommunications Network Operations Centre, Advanced Distribution Management System administration area and Private Automatic Branch Exchange, due to the high security risk of these functions.

Our Digital and Technology team are in a separate corporate office, with some Enerven engineering and support staff now co-located within this building. The SA Power Networks staff who are co-located with

Enerven staff either do not have access to electricity information or only have access to electricity information to the extent necessary to perform corporate functions (as permissible by the Guideline). Noting this, we have put additional controls in place (for example clean desk policies) to ensure that where SA Power Networks staff have access to electricity information this information is not available to Enerven staff.

Staff sharing

Staff sharing analysis was again conducted in 2024. The process involved using organisational data from our HR system which detailed all staff and their positions. Analysis was conducted at the role level, considering the duties of each role and whether an exemption under the Guideline could be applied. These shared staff positions are listed in our Staff Sharing Register (**R.1**). There have been no additional positions added to the Staff Sharing Register in 2024.

A Staff Sharing Guideline (**S.2**) and Staff Sharing Quick Reference Guide (**S.3**) provide guidance and practical examples for staff on where they can and cannot be shared between the regulated business and Enerven. A Ring-fencing Directive (**S.1**) also ensures the obligations are appropriately considered and adhered to by all staff.

Area of special consideration - Procurement staff

SA Power Networks shares procurement staff with our affiliate. Specific processes and controls are in place to ensure sharing of procurement staff with Enerven does not disadvantage competitors of Enerven. These include:

- When a competitive tendering process is undertaken, the documents containing tenders from external service providers are stored in local network drives and not our SAP system, and these are locked-down such that Enerven staff do not have access to them.
- After a tendering process has concluded, rates agreed with external service providers will only be visible in SAP when required to allow SA Power Networks to transact with them. Controls, such as training and company-wide directives, are in place to ensure that Enerven staff do not access this information other than as allowed under the Guideline. SA Power Networks implemented ‘hard’ access controls in SAP in April 2023, which formally restricts access to this information.
- We also have various other controls, including training, company-wide directives and policies, annual compliance questionnaires and audits in place. SA Power Networks has a number of relevant directives and guidelines we apply in managing bidding processes involving Enerven.⁴ Principally, where we identify that a competitive sourcing process should be undertaken for an activity that SA Power Networks seeks to procure, and that Enerven may be a potential bidder, the sourcing process must be undertaken in accordance with the process stipulated in the ‘segregation of duties’ principles within our ‘Engaging Enerven Guideline’. These principles dictate that:
 - Enerven will be treated like any other supplier;
 - the Category Manager (i.e. procurement staff) undertaking the respective sourcing activity, where Enerven are bidding, cannot also support Enerven in their bid process; and
 - Enerven personnel, and procurement staff supporting the Enerven bidding process, will not have access to any competitors’ tender responses, evaluation and/or negotiations outcomes. These procurement staff will also be located at an Enerven office for the duration of the tender process.

In 2024, procurement staff did not, in performance of their roles, functions or duties, engage in discriminatory conduct contrary to 4.1 of the Guideline.

⁴ Please refer to section 4.4.1 of our Annual Ring-Fencing Compliance Report.

4.6. Branding and cross-promotion

We must have independent and separate branding from our affiliates, and not advertise or promote (or cross-advertise or promote) the services of affiliates.

4.6.1. Compliance actions

The Enerven brand is independent of and does not resemble the SA Power Networks brand, ensuring that a reasonable person would not infer that SA Power Networks and Enerven are related.

Internal documentation may be co-branded, this includes operational forms and corporate directives, policies and procedures as they are not available externally. Any external marketing documentation including tender documents are not co-branded. Call centre scripts (**BC.3**) are in place to ensure that call centre staff who may receive queries about contestable services do not refer customers to Enerven.

Enerven has its own website, which is managed wholly by the Enerven Commercial Team. The Website Governance Procedure (**BC.4**) ensures SA Power Networks' website does not mention Enerven in an advertising or promotional manner. Any social media posts by SA Power Networks are managed by the Communications and Engagement team. Processes are in place for any external communications, to ensure that SA Power Networks does not promote Enerven on our social media pages.

Other Branding Controls

There are several branding controls that are used where staff are shared between the regulated business and Enerven projects (where allowed under our staff sharing provisions). These include the following:

- SA Power Networks' branded vehicles are not used in delivering contestable electricity services.
- Staff (including shared staff) do not wear SA Power Networks' branded uniforms when providing contestable electricity services.
- Separate Enerven email addresses for projects. The implementation best suited to the business context is chosen.
- Where artefacts require a branded stamp and signature to denote acceptance, an Enerven stamp will be used for Enerven projects.

4.7. Office and staff registers

We must establish, maintain and keep a register that identifies the offices and staff positions (including a description of the roles, functions and duties) that are shared in accordance with the exemptions provided in the Guideline. The staff and office sharing registers must be published on our website and reviewed/updated on a quarterly basis.

4.7.1. Compliance actions

The process to determine appropriate office and staff sharing is described in section 4.5 above.

The registers (**R.1 & R.2**) are published on our website, and are reviewed on a quarterly basis and updated in accordance with internal procedures.

4.8. Protection of ring-fenced information

We must keep ring-fenced information confidential, and only use it for the purpose for which it was acquired or generated.

A number of our IT systems contain ring-fenced information and ensuring appropriate staff access to these systems has again been an ongoing focus area in 2024.

4.8.1. Compliance actions

The approval for any Enerven staff requesting access to critical systems is automated in the IT service request management tool to reduce the opportunity for human error. The automated approval will incorporate the detailed ring-fencing specific approval templates, and will stop the subsequent access provision process if appropriate approval is not granted via the IT service request management tool.

The IT Ring-fencing Compliance Group continued to meet regularly with key staff representing all IT teams and all IT staff are continually reminded of the importance of the process. The IT induction process for any new or transferring staff within IT now includes (in addition to the online ring-fencing training activity) a review of the IT Application Access Work Instruction and Quarterly system access review process.

Quarterly access reviews of each application containing ring-fenced information were conducted in 2024 and verified by IT Management, to ensure the process and controls are being adhered to. In the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, there was one instance detected where staff had inappropriate access. The application configuration profile which determines user's access had been altered and this resulted in nine Enerven staff being provided access to ring-fenced GIS customer data.

Noting this, it was unlikely any of the staff would have been aware they could access additional ring-fenced GIS customer data. Furthermore, none of the employees had the capacity to use the GIS customer data to gain a competitive advantage for Enerven. SA Power Networks on becoming aware of the issue reported it as a breach, removed the employee's unauthorised access and remediated the configuration assignment process.

Separate 'company codes' were introduced within the SAP application for SA Power Networks and Enerven on 17 April 2022, following the 2018/19 compliance report and the AER's concern regarding the lack of 'hard' IT access controls. Since April 2022 all prospective Enerven work has been set up under the Enerven company code. The project to close out all open Enerven work orders and transition them to the new Enerven company code was completed in September 2023, with associated Enerven staff access updated to restrict access to the Enerven company code.

We note that some Enerven staff have retained access to the SA Power Networks company code to enable them to complete regulated work on behalf of SA Power Networks, where this work has been awarded to Enerven. This access is provided in accordance with section 4.3.2 (c) of the Ring-fencing guideline, where the Enerven employees are only accessing the necessary information to complete regulated work. This access will continue to be formally reviewed on a quarterly basis, with an individual's access removed where it is no longer required to support regulated functions.

4.9. Disclosure of information

We must not disclose ring-fenced information to any person including Enerven, unless an exemption applies.

4.9.1. Compliance actions

Previous process controls developed, continued in 2024. These controls included:

- Staff training and Code of Conduct applicable to all staff, ensuring staff are aware of their obligation not to disclose any ring-fenced information to a third party, including Enerven.
- Updated eLearning training modules (**G.3**).
- Maintaining the Information Classification, Handling and Management Directive (**I.1**). The Information Classification, Handling and Management Directive ensures that we have a process for classifying information to ensure it is produced, stored, distributed and destroyed in accordance with the risks related to that information. It also defines how information can be shared with external organisations, and what levels of permission need to be obtained prior to disclosing information to an external organisation. In some cases, the type of information shared may need to be included on an information register, published on the SA Power Networks website in accordance with the Guideline.
- Maintaining the Ring-fencing Requests for Information Procedure (**I.3**) which provides specific direction where third-party requests for ring-fenced information are received.
- Maintaining the Information Sharing Guideline (**I.4**) and Information Sharing Quick Reference Guide (**I.5**) which provides staff with an overview of obligations and the process that must be followed when requests for information are received from a third party, including Enerven.

Ring-fenced information is always treated in accordance with privacy obligations, however we consider Enerven as a third party, and treat their requests for ring-fenced information like any other third party. Our Customer and Strategy Department receives requests for ring-fenced information, these requests will be fulfilled where explicit customer consent is provided.

4.10. Sharing of information

Where we share ring-fenced information with Enerven, or where we disclose ring-fenced information to a legal entity solely for the purposes of research which is then disclosed to Enerven, we must provide access to that information (including the derived information) to other legal entities on an equal basis.

We are only required to provide information to a legal entity if they have requested to be on our information register for that information; and where they are competing or seeking to compete with Enerven in relation to contestable electricity services. Sharing of information obligations do not apply if we disclose information where an exemption applies.⁵

We must establish and make available on our website an information sharing protocol, and where we disclose information we must do so on terms and conditions that require the other legal entity to comply with 'protection of ring-fenced information' and 'disclosure of information' obligations.

4.10.1. Compliance actions

We have established and published an Information Sharing Protocol (**Protocol**) (**I.8**) which sets out the process for legal entities to follow in respect of being added to our Information Register. The Protocol includes the circumstances required for a valid request, and a link to our information register request web form (**I.9**). The Information Protocol and information register request web form are located on our website, under About Us>Regulatory information.

⁵ AER Ring-fencing Guideline 4.3.3 lists the circumstances where we can disclose information without the need to provide it equally to other legal entities.

4.11. Information register

We must establish, maintain and keep a register of all legal entities (including Enerven) who provide contestable electricity services, who request access to ring-fenced information, and must make the register publicly available on our website.

4.11.1. Compliance actions

We have developed an Information Sharing Register (I.7) which is published on our website. Our internal Information Sharing Procedure (I.3) specifies when and what details we must add information to the register. The process includes regular (daily) checking of our mailbox to ensure information requests are captured.

To date, we have received no requests from third parties to be added to our Information Register.

4.12. Conduct of service providers

We must ensure that any new or varied agreement between us and a service provider requires the service provider to not act contrary to the Guideline's requirements. We must also not directly or indirectly encourage or incentivise a service provider to engage in conduct contrary to the Guideline.

4.12.1. Compliance actions

Formal contract amendments were issued to suppliers in 2017 which included additional clauses required by the 'conduct of other service providers' Guideline provisions⁶. Purchase orders were transferred to Enerven where required, and suppliers were notified of this via a letter (SP.3).

New supply agreement templates (terms and conditions) are in place for any new or amended contractual arrangements. The new templates include the obligations required by the Guideline for other service providers. For example, our standard agreement for the supply of services to SA Power Networks (SP.1) includes a new section 29 'Ring-fencing compliance'.⁷

We ensure all suppliers are aware of our obligations under the Guideline and the role of the Procurement branch as a shared corporate service function to all parts of the SA Power Networks group, including Enerven (SP.4).

4.13. Waiver register

The Guideline allows us to apply for waivers in respect of the legal and functional separation obligations. We must also establish and maintain a register of all waivers that are granted.

4.13.1. Compliance actions

SA Power Networks has a waiver register to list the waivers granted to us by the AER. Our waiver register is published on SA Power Networks' website (W.1). The register details the Guideline obligations to which the waiver applies, and the terms and conditions of the waiver. SA Power Networks' Waiver Register is on the SA Power Networks website under About Us>Regulatory information.

⁶ AER Ring-fencing Guideline 4.4.1, A DNSP must ensure that any new or varied agreement between the DNSP and a service provider, for the provision of services to the DNSP that enable or assist the DNSP to supply direct control services, requires the service provider to comply, in providing those services, with: clauses 4.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.3.1 of this Guideline; and clause 4.2.3 of this Guideline in relation to the brands of the DNSP; as if the service provider was the DNSP.

⁷ (a) To the extent that the Ring-Fencing Guideline applies to the provision of any Services or Goods under this Agreement, the Supplier will comply with clauses 4.4, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.3.3 and, in relation to the Supplier's branding, clause 4.2.3 of the Ring-Fencing Guideline as if the reference in such clauses to "DNSP" was a reference to the Supplier.

Construction and Maintenance Contracts Waiver

In October 2017 we applied for a waiver for ‘other services’ (maintenance and construction contracts) for SA Power Networks’ obligation to comply with clause 3.1 of the Guideline. This waiver applied pre-existing contracts that were in place prior to the commencement of the Guideline, which were not able to be novated from SA Power Networks to Enerven. The waiver was due to expire on 30 September 2018. On 3 September 2018, we lodged a waiver extension application in relation to 21 construction and maintenance contracts for which SA Power Networks have been unable to obtain a Private Binding Ruling from the Australian Taxation Office. On 28 September 2018, the AER approved a waiver extension until 30 June 2021.

In May 2021, SA Power Networks made a further application to the AER to extend the waiver granted on 28 September 2018 in respect of one of the 21 construction and maintenance contracts that was the subject of the original waiver application. The application was necessitated by the customer exercising a two-year right of extension under the original contract, as the customer has a unilateral and automatic right to exercise various options to extend the contract. The AER approved the extension of the waiver on 3 June 2021, with this waiver expiring on 30 June 2023. The AER also noted a variation to this contract on 8 September 2021, clarifying (not extending) the scope of services being provided under this contract.

The customer has continued to experience delays impacting completion of this project and has exercised their right to further extend this contract beyond 30 June 2023. An extension of the Ring-fencing Waiver was not obtained prior to further work being undertaken under this contract. The work under this contract is completed by our affiliate Enerven, however the contract continues to be between SA Power Networks and the customer. This is a breach of section 3.1 (b) of the Guideline, where a DNSP must not provide ‘other services’, and was reported to the AER on 19 April 2024.

The work has now been finalised, with practical completion occurring on 11 December 2024.

Class Waivers

The AER granted a class waiver on 14 December 2022 permitting DNSPs to enter contracts with AEMO for the provision of Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader (RERT) services via voltage management. The class waiver exempts DNSPs from their obligations to comply with clause 4.2 of the Guideline (functional separation) in relation to the provision of RERT services via voltage management. This class waiver was effective until 15 April 2025. The AER requested submissions regarding the extension of this waiver on 14 November 2024. However, at the time of completing this report, a decision on the extension of the waiver has not been announced.

We note SA Power Networks does not currently provide RERT services via voltage management to AEMO. We are continuing to invest in technology that will facilitate enhanced voltage management services and that may enable the provision of RERT services in the future. These services would only be provided where a new waiver was in place.

On 3 February 2023, the AER published a final decision to grant a class waiver that would enable DNSPs to lease battery capacity to third parties for batteries funded under the Commonwealth Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar Program, subject to strict controls and criteria. SA Power Networks has been granted approval for several community batteries under the Commonwealth program and will be complying with the conditions of the class waiver. Once the third party contract has been finalised we will provide the AER with the terms and conditions of the contract and include the information required under the AER’s class waiver in our next annual ring-fencing compliance report.

Market Active Solar (MAS) Trial Waiver

SA Power Networks applied for a waiver in January 2024 to partner with major energy retailers to demonstrate how distributors ‘dynamic operating envelopes’ (DOEs) can act in conjunction with retailer-

initiated schemes that actively manage the output of a customer’s solar inverter in response to market signals. This ring-fencing waiver request is limited to the provision of services under integration model 3, where the retailer control signal is sent to SA Power Networks and blended with flexible export DOE and published to the customer’s inverter using SA Power Networks’ existing infrastructure. The provision of a retailer’s control signal under model 3 is not a direct control service or negotiated service.

The AER approved a waiver for the functional separation obligations (section 4.2) for the MAS Trial on 16 April 2024. This waiver is effective until 31 December 2025.

4.14. Compliance and enforcement

To ensure ongoing compliance with the Guideline, we must

- establish and maintain appropriate internal procedures, noting that the AER may require us to demonstrate the adequacy of these procedures upon reasonable notice;
- provide annual compliance reports, accompanied by an independent compliance assessment; and
- report compliance breaches in writing to the AER within 15 business days of becoming aware of a breach.

4.14.1. Compliance actions

Several internal procedures and other documents are maintained to support ring-fencing compliance. These documents are identified and referenced throughout this report, and summarised in Appendix A.

The Ring-fencing Compliance Procedure (C.1) provides our internal process for preparing the Annual Compliance Report, and the independent compliance assessment (C.3). It includes a timeline for engaging with the independent assessor, through to report completion and submission. This process is managed by the Regulation Branch.

Our Breach Management Governance Framework (B.1) ensures that breaches reported to Regulation Branch are appropriately considered and managed. Staff must report any potential breach of the Guideline as soon as they become aware. The Breach Reporting Quick Reference Guide (B.2) provides all staff with guidance including what they must do and specific contact details for Regulation staff who can advise further action as required. Breaches are reported to the AER within the required timeframe, and all breaches are reported in the annual compliance report.

Furthermore, periodically our internal audit function reviews our legal and compliance programs including our ring-fencing processes. The most recent review was completed in early 2025. Key findings were presented to our executive leadership team which included a positive assessment of the effectiveness of our ring-fencing compliance program.

5. Other services

This annual compliance report must identify and describe all other services provided by SA Power Networks in accordance with clause 3.1 of the Guideline⁸.

We note that other services are defined as services other than:

- (a) Transmission services; or
- (b) Distribution services.

⁸ Section 6.2.1(b)iii of the Guideline

For the 2024 period, SA Power Networks did not provide any other services with the exception of maintenance and construction work covered under an approved waiver until 30 June 2023 as discussed in 4.13. We note, this construction and maintenance contract was entered into prior to the commencement of the Guideline. The work under this contract was completed by SA Power Networks' affiliate, Enerven. SA Power Networks was unable to obtain a Private Binding Ruling from the Australian Taxation Office to enable the contract to transfer to Enerven.

The final works performed under this contact were completed on 11 December 2024.

6. Transactions between the DNSP and affiliated entities

For the 2024 period, SA Power Networks contracted its affiliated entity, Enerven Energy Infrastructure Pty Ltd (Enerven), to perform various capital and operating works for its distribution network business where there were insufficient internal resources to complete the work within required timeframes. Services have been completed either in accordance with applicable works or service agreements between SA Power Networks and Enerven.

Transactions between SA Power Networks and Enerven are captured against individual capital and operating job/work orders in SAP, SA Power Networks' integrated business management system. These job/work orders capture costs for distinct items of work which, for example, may be job specific or program specific.

Job/work orders are assigned an SA Power Networks' functional area when created in SAP. They are assigned to one functional area only. Functional areas are the link to identify regulatory costs as they measure the costs of different lines of business for each of SA Power Networks' distribution service types.

Specific General Ledger accounts in SAP enable the reporting of individual job/work orders (transactions) generated and charged by Enerven Energy Infrastructure Pty Ltd to SA Power Networks grouped by functional area. Attachment 1 and 2 to this report summarise transactions between SA Power Networks and affiliated entities⁹.

⁹ The SAP data used to construct SA Power Networks' affiliate transaction report for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 is audited as part of our Regulatory Information Notice (RIN) related party reporting, as submitted to the AER annually. The data for the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 will be audited as part of the 2024/25RIO report.

7. Attachments

Attachment 1: CONFID Transactions between the DNSP and affiliated entities July 2023 - June 2024

Attachment 2: CONFID Transactions between the DNSP and affiliated entities July 2024 - December 2024

Attachment 3: Deloitte Independent Assessment Report

Attachment 4: Confidentiality Claim

8. Appendix A – Key SA Power Networks Ring-fencing compliance documents

Document Reference	Document Name (these are all internal SAPN documents, unless otherwise stated)	Purpose/Description
GENERAL		
G.1	Ring-fencing Training Module (eLearn), including Depot visits	Provides all staff (SA Power Networks and Enerven) with an overview of ring-fencing and associated obligations. The training is mandatory for existing and new staff.
G.2	Other training activities (Leaders presentations; Bulletin releases (QRGs); specific guidance to individual areas to address concerns / questions)	Provides further guidance to staff and managers.
G.3	Code of Conduct (and Code of Conduct eLearn training)	Provides all staff with examples of the standards of behaviour expected of them. Includes a section on confidentiality and the proper handling of information.
G.4	Ring-fencing Compliance Directive	Contains information relating to the responsibilities of all staff and contractors to appropriately adhere to the AER Ring-fencing Guideline.
LEGAL SEPARATION		
L.1	Registration and Licensing of SA Power Networks	SA Power Networks is licensed as a Distribution Network Service Provider. The license can be viewed on the ESCoSA website .
ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN ACCOUNTS		
F.1	Consolidated Finance Blueprint	Documents financial processes incorporating changes required to comply with the Ring-fencing Guideline.
F.2	Cost Allocation Method (CAM)	Sets out the Cost Allocation Method adopted in SA Power Networks Regulatory reporting. The CAM is published on the SA Power Networks website .
F.3	Provision of Inter-Company Labour Services Guideline	Defines the accounting treatment for labour services provided between SA Power Networks' entities, including those provided to Enerven by employees that normally undertake regulated work.
F.4	Work Order Quick Reference Guide	Provides guidance to staff on how to accurately allocate their time in a range of scenarios.
F.5	INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK	
F.6	AER Shared Asset Guideline	Provides the rules and mechanism for shared assets.
F.7	SAPN – Enerven/Enerven - SAPN Service Agreements	Formal service agreements for supply of services between SA Power Networks and Enerven/Enerven and SA Power Networks.
F.8	Shared Assets Quick Reference Guide	Provides staff with scenarios where sharing of assets is allowed under ring-fencing (and the Shared Asset Guideline).

Document Reference	Document Name (these are all internal SAPN documents, unless otherwise stated)	Purpose/Description
OBLIGATION TO NOT DISCRIMINATE		
D.1	Shared Services Engaging Enerven Guideline	Provides information and advice on how to engage with Enerven when procuring goods and/or services on behalf of SA Power Networks' regulated business.
D.2	Procurement Directive	Promotes procurement practices that (among other things) maintain ethical conduct with consideration to probity and accountability.
D.3	Strategic Sourcing Framework	Provides guidance and structure for undertaking sourcing activities.
PHYSICAL SEPARATION/CO-LOCATION		
O.1	Office Sharing Guideline	General guideline to assist staff to understand their responsibilities regarding the sharing of locations/offices between SA Power Networks and Enerven.
O.2	Office Sharing Quick Reference Guide	A quick reference guide to assist staff to understand their responsibilities regarding the sharing of office locations between SA Power Networks and Enerven.
O.3/S.5	Office/Location Sharing Analysis	Data extracted from enterprise system SAP to determine and analyse locations and where they are shared.
STAFF SHARING		
S.1	Ring-fencing Directive	Directive contains information relating to the responsibilities of all SA Power Networks staff and contractors and all Enerven staff, and other third parties to appropriately follow the AER Ring-fencing guideline.
S.2	Staff Sharing Guideline	General guideline to assist staff to understand their responsibilities regarding the sharing of staff between SA Power Networks and Enerven.
S.3	Staff Sharing Quick Reference Guide	A quick reference guide to assist staff to understand their responsibilities regarding the sharing of staff between SA Power Networks and Enerven.
S.4	HR Secondment Checklist	
O.3/S.5	Staff Sharing Analysis	Data extracted from enterprise system SAP to determine and analyse staff positions and where they are shared.
BRANDING AND CROSS-PROMOTION		
BC.1	Branding Guideline	General guideline to assist staff to understand obligations in relation to branding, advertising, and promotion/ cross-promotion.
BC.2	Branding Quick Reference Guide	A reference for staff which provides examples and case studies in relation to branding, advertising and promotion/cross-promotion.
BC.3	Customer Relations Call Centre Scripts (Updated)	Provides call centre staff with standard scripts for two scenarios: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the call centre provide an overflow function for Enerven; and 2. When customers call to enquire about contestable services.

Document Reference	Document Name (these are all internal SAPN documents, unless otherwise stated)	Purpose/Description
OFFICE AND STAFF REGISTERS		
R.1	Staff Sharing Register	Provides the nature of the positions (including a description of the roles, functions and duties) of our staff to which we have not applied staff sharing obligations due to a valid exemption.
R.2	Office Sharing Register	Provides the classes of offices to which we have not applied physical separation/co-location obligations due to a valid exemption.
INFORMATION ACCESS & DISCLOSURE		
I.1	Information Classification, Handling and Management Directive (Updated)	The purpose of this directive is to ensure that we have a process for classifying information to ensure it is produced, stored, distributed and destroyed in accordance with the risks related to that information. It also defines how information can be shared with external organisations, and what levels of permission need to be obtained prior to disclosing information to an external organisation. In some cases, the type of information shared may need to be included on an information register, published on the SA Power Networks website in accordance with the AER's ring-fencing guideline.
I.2	INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK	
I.3	Requests for Information Procedure	To guide SA Power Networks Group personnel employed by Utilities Management and working in the regulated business, including contractors, in the provision of ring-fenced electricity information to requestors external to SA Power Networks. This includes requests from affiliates (ie Enerven).
I.4	Information Sharing Guideline	General guidelines to assist staff in understanding responsibilities regarding the sharing of information between SA Power Networks and other entities, including our affiliate (ie Enerven).
I.5	Information Sharing Quick Reference Guide	A quick reference guide for all staff to assist in identifying information sharing obligations, exemptions, and process requirements.
I.6	Application Access Control: Work Instruction	Provides IT Service Desk staff and application owners the process to follow where staff working primarily for Enerven request access to a system containing ring-fenced information.
I.7	Information Sharing Register	The register is currently blank, but will be used to record requests to be added to the register as required.
I.8	Information Sharing Protocol	The protocol outlines the circumstances under which an entity can request to be added to the Information Sharing Register, and the process for submitting a request.
I.9	Information Sharing Web form	A form to enable third parties to submit a request to be added to our Information Register. The form is available on our website .

Document Reference	Document Name (these are all internal SAPN documents, unless otherwise stated)	Purpose/Description
SERVICE PROVIDERS		
SP.1	Standard Terms and Conditions (Updated)	The terms and conditions issued for varied or new agreements now include the ring-fencing provisions that service providers must comply with.
SP.2	Supplier Contract Amendment Letter	Provides existing suppliers with information about ring-fencing and their obligations, along with resultant amendments to their contract.
SP.3	PO Transfer Notification Letter	Provides existing suppliers with information about ring-fencing and their obligations, along with resultant amendments to their purchase order/s.
SP.4	SA Power Networks' Relationship to Enerven communication	Provided suppliers information on our requirements under the Ring-fencing Guideline, and the role of the Procurement team as a shared service function to all parts of the SA Power Networks group (including Enerven).
WAIVERS		
W.1	Waiver Register	A register of waivers approved by the AER which is published on the SAPN website.
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT		
C.1	Regulation Ring-fencing Compliance Procedure	Provides the ring-fencing procedures managed by the Regulation branch, including breach reporting, annual compliance reporting, updating of registers, and internal quarterly reporting.
C.2	Regulation Ring-fencing Annual Internal Compliance Questionnaire	Confirms obligations with General Managers and Level 3 Managers and checks for compliance and appropriate controls.
C.3	Annual Compliance Report and Independent Assessment	As required by Guideline section 6.2.
B.1	Breach Management Governance Framework	Provides the framework for breach reporting, including treatment of material breaches and the involvement of the Breach Management Committee.
B.2	Breach Reporting Quick Reference Guide	Guides staff on the breach reporting process and highlights the importance of reporting any potential breach.