

ESV ref: CM-8966

21 November 2019

Mr Alistair Parker
Executive General Manager Regulated Energy Services
AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd
Locked Bag 14501
MELBOURNE VIC 8001

Dear Mr Parker *Alistair*

RAPID EARTH FAULT CURRENT LIMITER PROGRAM INITIAL PERIOD EXTENSION

Thank you for the letter dated 3 October 2019 in which AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd (**AusNet Services**) requested Energy Safe Victoria (**ESV**) to specify a later commencement date of 1 May 2021 for the **initial period** as referred to in section 120M(5) of the Electricity Safety Act 1998 (**the Act**).

Pursuant to section 120X(3)(a) of **the Act** and after consulting with the Minister, I hereby specify the **initial period** for which **AusNet Services** must comply with section 120M(1)(a) of **the Act** to be the period beginning 29 April 2021¹ and ending at the commencement of the **intermediate period**.

In order to align with the above I also attach an exemption from the requirements of regulation 7(3)(a)(i) of the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013, which is subject to conditions and is for the duration set out in the exemption document.

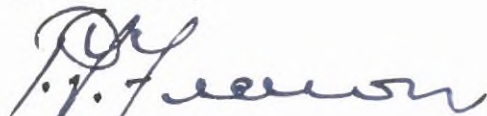
The time extension and exemption are granted because:

- Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (**REFCL**) technology is installed at all eight zone substations forming the requisite 30 points for Tranche 1 and will provide the majority of the intended bushfire mitigation benefits.
- AusNet Services has demonstrated that it is managing the associated bushfire risk as far as practicable by desensitising problematic feeders so that the maximum benefit can be achieved on those and the remaining feeders
- Six of the eight zone substations tested as part of Tranche 1 of the **REFCL** program have been accepted by ESV as **complying substations** with conditions (23 points)
- Causes and solutions of the technical issues have been identified
- A delivery plan to implement the proposed solutions and achieve the required capacity has been provided and accepted by ESV

¹ Note the **intermediate period** begins on 1 May 2021. In order to prevent overlap or extension of the **intermediate period**, the **initial period** has been specified to begin two days earlier than requested.

Should you require further information, please contact Ian Burgwin, General Manager Electricity Safety and Technical Regulation by telephone 03 9203 9781 or email ian.burgwin@energysafe.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Fearon', written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Paul Fearon
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

Attachments:

- Exemption Notice – Bushfire Mitigation Regulations – AusNet Services (PEGACM-8966-46)