



AusNet Transmission Group Pty Ltd

Transmission Revenue Review 2017-2022

Revised Revenue Proposal

**Appendix 3B: Statement from the Board
of AusNet Services**

Submitted: 21 September 2016





STATEMENT OF THE BOARD AUSNET SERVICES

The Board of AusNet Services is committed to ensuring the safety of its workforce and the community. This is consistent with Victorian Occupational Health and Safety legislation, under which the Board of AusNet Services has a duty to all its employees to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

This duty is wide, in appropriate recognition of the importance of avoiding workplace injuries and eradicating workplace fatalities. Particularly given the inherent dangers associated with the conveyance of electricity and gas, it is a critical priority for AusNet Services to provide safe plant, safe systems of work, and safe places of work.

In addition, AusNet Services must manage its sites so that other people (such as customers, visitors and the general public) are not endangered by the conduct of our business.

Penalties for breaches of the Occupational Health & Safety Act have increased substantially in recent years. The maximum penalties are now over \$1M for a company, and penalties can also be imposed on individuals.

The Board takes an active role in the safety programs of AusNet Services, as required under applicable legislation. This approach to safety includes the production and assessment of quantifiable data regarding safety risks, to enable the business to target and focus on areas exposed to the greatest risk. It is the Board's considered position that this safety risk assessment, and the safety standard it produces, are not only appropriate, but necessary.

It has caused concern to the Board that the AER has suggested that the safety standards of AusNet Services are at a level beyond that which a prudent network service provider would, or should, maintain.

This is particularly an issue in relation to major projects which have already been approved by the AER, such as the West Melbourne Terminal Station rebuild. These projects incorporate improved safety outcomes through the reduction of risks posed to staff of AusNet Services and the public. The Board will not accept any diminution of safety standards inherent in these projects, given that this would jeopardise the current planned replacement program of assets posing safety risk.

The Board seeks the support of the AER to appropriately fund the safety initiatives and standards that have been implemented by AusNet Services for these major projects.

Board of Directors,
AusNet Services

21 September 2016