

# REFCL Compliance Maintained Planning Report Lilydale (LDL) Zone Substation

## AMS – Electricity Distribution Network

<b>Document number</b>	AMS 20-403
<b>Issue number</b>	2
<b>Status</b>	Approved
<b>Approver</b>	Tom Langstaff
<b>Date of approval</b>	28/01/2020

## REFCL Compliance Maintained Planning Report Lilydale (LDL) Zone Substation

**ISSUE/AMENDMENT STATUS**

Issue	Date	Description	Author	Approved
1	3/12/2019	First Issue	Networks Planning	T Langstaff
2	28/01/2020	Minor amendments	Networks Planning	T Langstaff

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## 1 Project overview

The *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Amendment Regulations 2016* came into effect on 1 May 2016 amending the *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013* (the **Regulations**). These Regulations specify the Required Capacity for Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter performance. The Regulations also specify the 22 zone substations on AusNet Services' network that must comply with the Regulations.

The *Electricity Safety Amendment (Bushfire Mitigation Civil Penalties Scheme) Act 2017* (the **Act**) sets out the significant financial penalties enforceable for non-compliance. Refer to Appendix A for further information.

Lilydale (**LDL**) zone substation (**ZSS**) is included in Tranche 2 of the AusNet Services REFCL Program with compliance required to be achieved by 1 May 2021. This report investigates and seeks funding for the most prudent and efficient approach to maintain compliance with the Regulations at LDL during the 2022-26 regulatory control period.

By the Tranche 2 compliance deadline of 1 May 2021, LDL will have two standard Arc Suppression Coils (**ASCs**) installed which, for planning purpose, are assumed to have a combined capacitive current limit of 200 Amperes (**A**) (100A per coil). The capacitive current at LDL is forecast to start exceeding the limit from 2024. The zone substation demand is within the zone substation rating and the zone substation assets are in good condition. Hence, the increasing capacitive current is driving the need to invest in LDL to ensure AusNet Services can maintain compliance with the Regulations.

This report reviews various options considered by AusNet Services to manage the capacitance growth. The preferred option, which is the option found to be the most economically efficient and technically feasible, recommends that an isolation transformer is installed on Feeder LDL21 past switch LD727. The last major overhead section past the isolation transformer, being approximately 350m length of High Voltage Aerial Bundle Conductor (**HV ABC**) installed along a narrow road cut into rock, will need to be converted to underground cable. The outcome of this solution will be a reduction of capacitive current by 50A which will enable LDL to remain compliant with the Regulations until beyond 2026. A technical exemption will be required to be granted by the Governor in Council.

The estimated cost for this solution and associated works is \$1.824 million (\$'real, 2019).

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## 2 Background

### 2.1 Purpose of this report

This report investigates any constraints that are forecast to occur at LDL, identifies and assesses potential options, and seeks funding for the preferred option. LDL is included in Schedule 1 of the *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013*, and must meet the Required Capacity defined in the Regulations.

The constraints investigated include:

- Forecast demand;
- Network constraints; and
- Capacitive current and compliance with the Regulations.

The following sections of this report describe the compliance obligations, the technologies available to achieve those obligations, constraints at the zone substation and options to mitigate any issues.

### 2.2 Compliance obligations

The Victorian Government has mandated, through the Regulations, that electricity distribution companies increase safety standards on specific components of their networks to reduce bushfire risk. The Regulations set challenging performance standards (the **Required Capacity**) for 22 of AusNet Services' zone substations. The dates for compliance are separated into three tranches based on a prioritising points system, and occur on 1 May 2019, 1 May 2021 and 1 May 2023. In addition, the Victorian Government has enforced timely compliance of the Regulations by introducing significant financial penalties through the *Electricity Safety Amendment (Bushfire Mitigation Civil Penalties Scheme) Act 2017 (the Act)*.

Distribution businesses have found that the Required Capacity can only be met by installing Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (**REFCLs**) in zone substations. In addition, the Victorian Government's Powerline Bushfire Safety Program also identified REFCLs as the preferred solution for meeting the Required Capacity<sup>1</sup>.

The Act provides for the Governor-in Council to grant exemptions and for a Major Electricity Company to request the modification of due dates and periods.

Details of the Act, the Regulations and the penalties are in Appendix A.

### 2.3 REFCL technology

There are various types of technology that fall under the REFCL umbrella, however the only type of REFCL currently considered suitable by the Victorian Electric Supply Industry (**VESI**) for bushfire safety is known as the Ground Fault Neutraliser (**GFN**), a proprietary product by Swedish Neutral. Presently, the GFN is the only device that can meet the performance criteria of the Regulations. All references to REFCLs in the remainder of this document are referring to the GFN type.

REFCLs are comprised of the following key components:

- Arc Suppression Coil (**ASC**) – which is a large inductor that compensates for the capacitive current during an earth fault.

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<sup>1</sup> REFCL fact sheet 2016 111216, Introducing best knowledge and technology, Powerline Bushfire Safety program, Dec 2016

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- Residual Current Compensator (**RCC**) – also referred to as the inverter, which is located in the zone substation control building or switchroom. It is used to reduce fault current by compensating for the active current during an earth fault
- Control Panels and software, which control the equipment.

### 2.4 REFCL constraints

The REFCL's ability to successfully detect, manage and locate phase to earth (also referred to as ground) faults on the 22kV network<sup>2</sup> is dependent on a complex combination of network conditions which, when correctly managed, allow continued operation of the REFCL protection in compliance with the Required Capacity.

The following network conditions and physical constraints impact the continued correct operation of the REFCL and its ability to continue meeting the Required Capacity:

#### Network damping factor

The network damping factor is defined as the ratio of the resistive current losses to the capacitive current ( $I_R/I_C$ ) measured across the zero-sequence network. A higher damping factor is undesirable as it limits the ability of the REFCL to detect a high impedance fault, and thus operate in the time required to comply with the Required Capacity. The higher the damping factor the lower the capacitive current limit of the ASC.

#### Network topology

Most modern residential developments are constructed using underground cables which have a higher capacitance than overhead lines. As the 22kV network grows due to increased demand, new customer connections and overhead conductor to underground cable conversions, the additional cable installations will increase the total capacitive current on the network. If the network capacitive current exceeds the capacitive current limit of the ASC, network investment is required to maintain compliance with the Regulations.

#### Capacitive current limit of the ASC

There are two capacitive current limits:

- **Per ASC:** The typical configuration for REFCLs is one ASC per supply transformer and therefore per bus. The limit of an ASC is dependent on the damping characteristics of the network. Currently, the actual damping characteristics specific to the network can only be measured once a GFN is operating. At locations where a GFN is not yet operational, an ASC planning limit of 100A is assumed to determine indicative, but conservative, augmentation timing.
- **Per feeder:** To enable differentiation of the feeder experiencing a fault, the maximum capacitive current that is allowable per individual feeder is 80A.

#### Software limitations

Currently Swedish Neutral (manufacturer of the GFN) has not deployed a software solution that will allow the use of three GFNs at one zone substation. Hence, a planning constraint of a maximum of two REFCLs per zone substation has been used.

### 2.5 Prudent and efficient investment

AusNet Services has taken the approach of incremental funding requests to maintain compliance with the Regulation to ensure minimal long term cost to customers. This is prudent and efficient as it enables:

<sup>2</sup> SWER, which operates at 12.7kV, is excluded from the Required Capacity and is subject to its own requirements.

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- Minimum works to be carried out just in time to maintain compliance with the Regulation until 2026.
- Planning to be based on the most up-to-date network growth and capacitive current information and
- Application of the latest development in REFCL technology in this rapidly developing field. For example, should Swedish Neutral deploy a software solution that to enables the use of three REFCLs at a zone substation, it may enable deferral of a new zone substation.

**3 LDL zone substation overview**

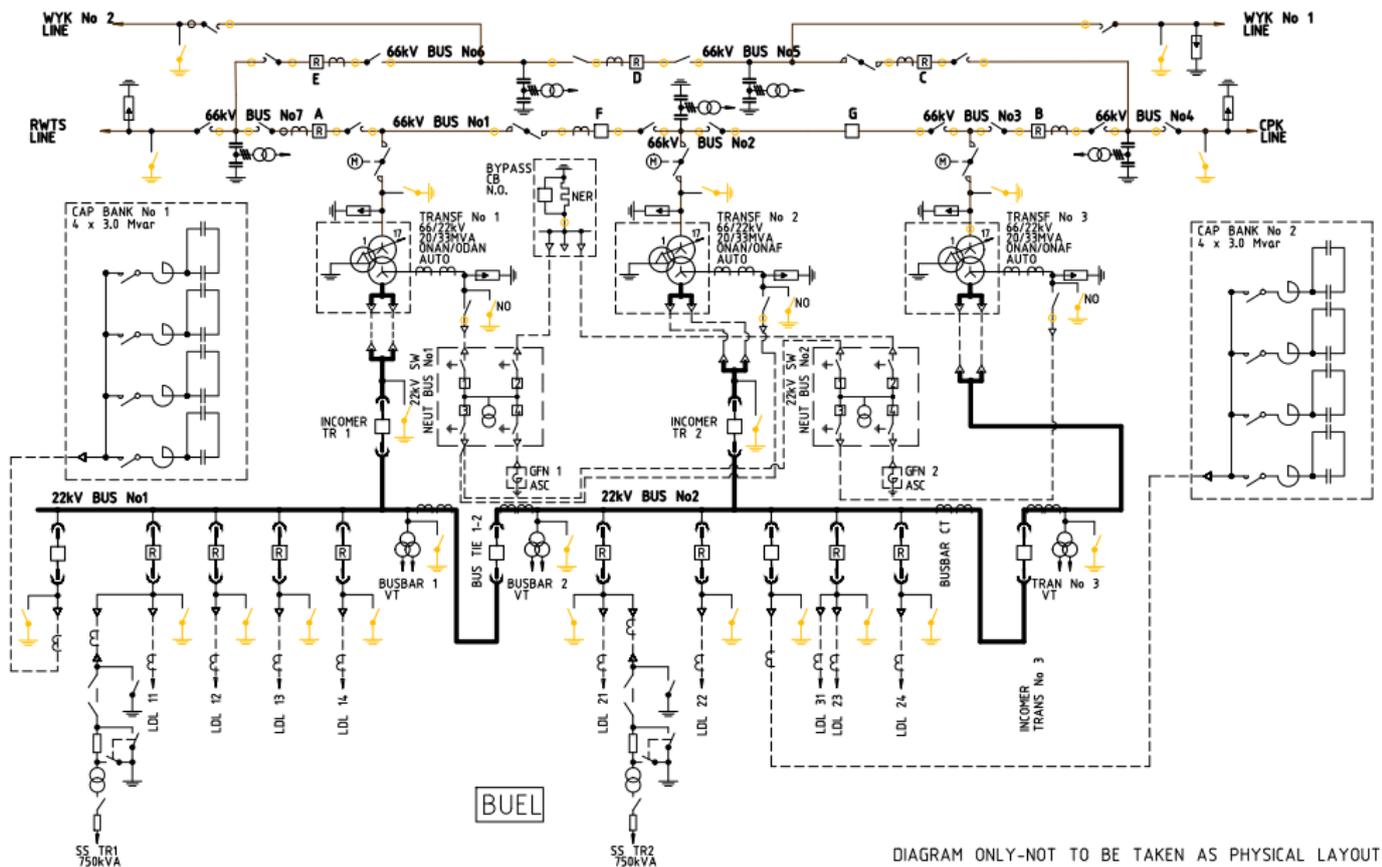
Lilydale (**LDL**) zone substation (**ZSS**) is located in the suburb of Lilydale approximately 35km east of Melbourne. It is included in Tranche 2 of the AusNet Services REFCL Program.

Originally constructed in the late 1950s with three 10/13 MVA transformers, the LDL has been progressively upgraded and now consists of three 20/33 MVA transformers which are all in good conditions and less than 20 years old.

The future (post-REFCL) Single Line Diagram (**SLD**), showing the two REFCLs, is presented in Figure 3-1. Two REFCLs will be commissioned at LDL zone substation by 31 May 2021 as part of Tranche 2 of the AusNet Services REFCL Program to achieve compliance with the Regulations.

Given the existing REFCL software allows a maximum of two REFCLs per zone substation, presently it is not possible to install any more REFCLs at this site.

**Figure 3-1 LDL ZSS Single Line Diagram**



Source: AusNet Services

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An aerial view of the 22kV feeders originating from LDL is shown in Figure 3-2. The distribution areas include both residential and commercial suburban areas around Lilydale as well as semi-urban areas that are heavily tree-covered, steep and have limited access between the suburbs and townships Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn, Yarra Glen, Healesville and Silvan.

The feeders are predominately overhead. Table 3-1 shows the breakdown of overhead conductor and underground cables per feeder. Overhead feeders contribute a lower amount of capacitive current compared to underground cables.

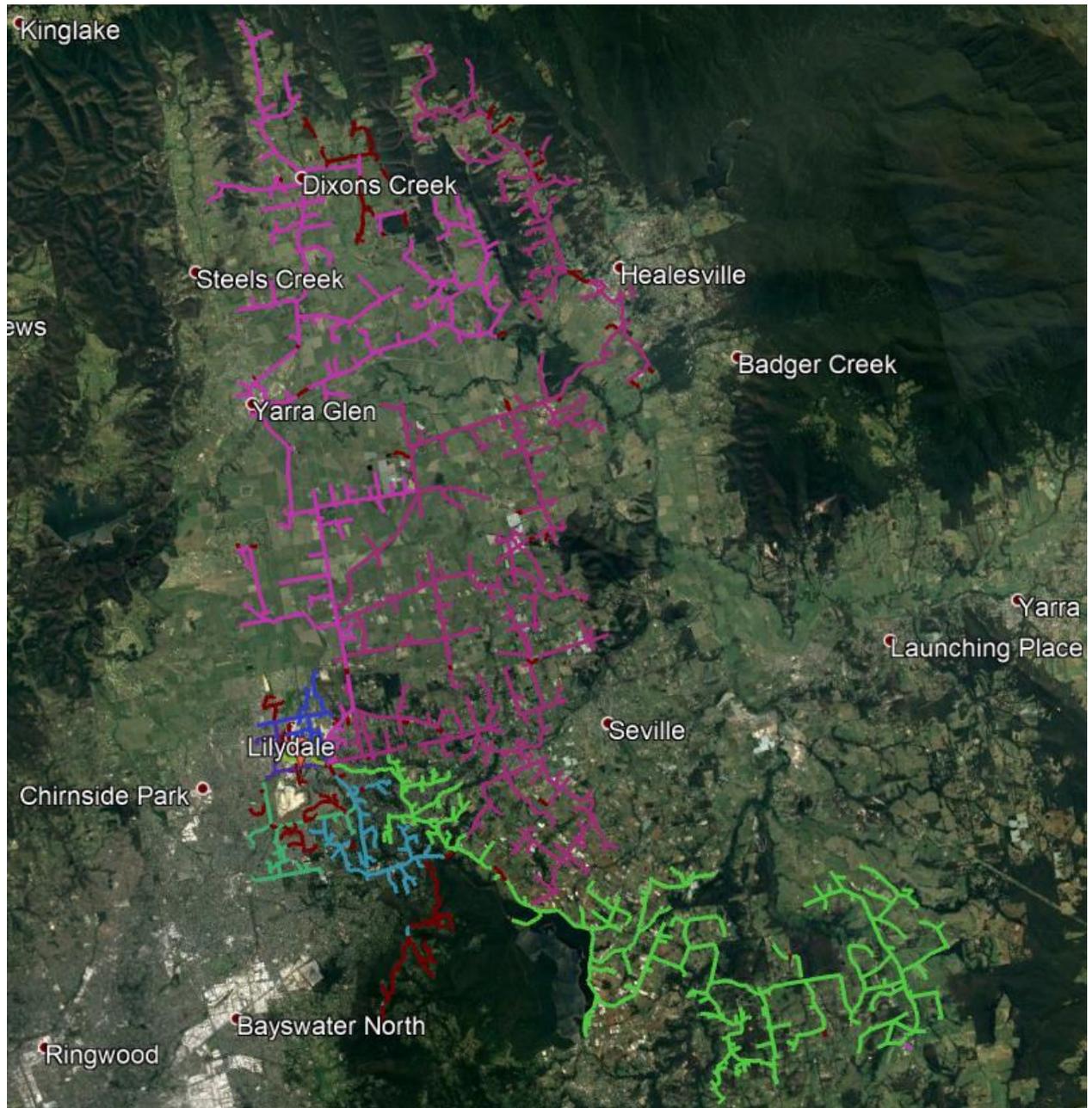
The Mount Dandenong feeder (LDL21) has a notably higher amount of underground cable. LDL23 and LDL24 also have high amounts of cable. This was a result of the Powerline Replacement Fund (**PRF**) Bushfire Safety Program which focused on converting overhead conductor to underground cable in high bushfire risk areas. Currently, approximately 40% of LDL21 is underground.

**Table 3-1 Overhead and underground conductor lengths**

Feeder	Overhead (km)	Underground (km)	Total length (km)
LDL11	6.0	2.1	8.0
LDL12	3.6	0.6	4.2
LDL13	87.5	1.2	88.7
LDL14	98.8	4.6	103.4
LDL21	24.6	15.1	39.8
LDL22	10.8	4.2	15.1
LDL23	184.1	10.7	194.8
LDL24	14.4	10.6	25.0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>429.9</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>479.0</b>

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Figure 3-2 LDL ZSS Aerial Layout (underground conductor shown in dark maroon)



### 3.1 Network forecast

This section provides a discussion on the demand and capacitive current forecasts to identify if either attribute is exceeding the capacity of the substation and when it is expected to occur. This will identify the need and drive the type and timing of any intervention or investment that may be required.

#### 3.1.1 Demand forecast

The table below shows the LDL maximum demand forecast in MVA between 2020 and 2026. By 2026, the Summer (consolidated) demand is expected to increase by approximately 3.2MVA. However, as shown in Figure 3-3, the forecast demand will not exceed the N-1 cyclic rating of the substation within the 2022-2026 regulatory control period. In addition, these supply

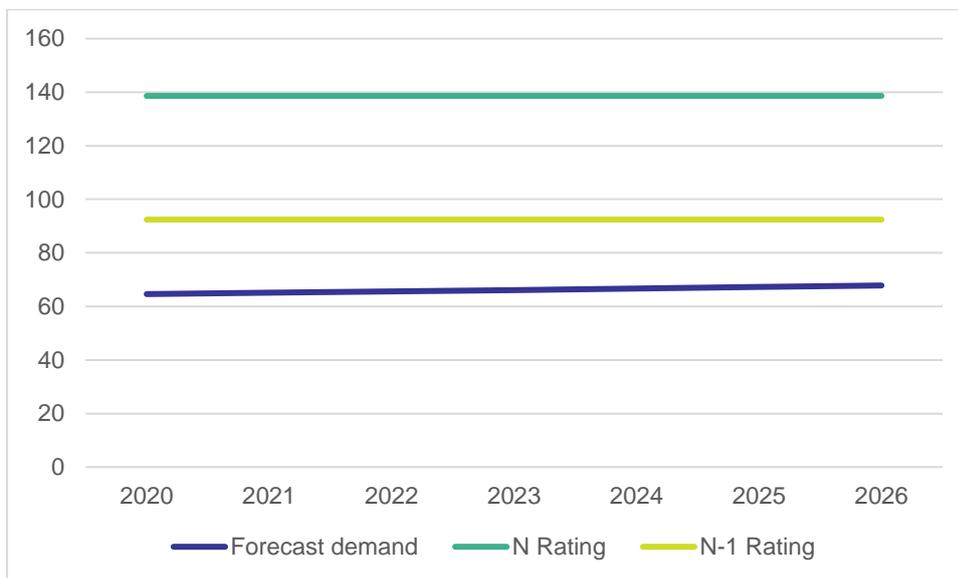
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transformers are considered to be in good condition as discussed above, hence the probability weighted value of energy at risk does not warrant capacity augmentation to be undertaken.

**Table 3-2 Maximum Demand (MVA) Forecast for LDL – 2020 to 2026**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>LDL Winter (50POE)</b>	53.3	53.0	52.7	52.3	51.9	51.5	51.1
<b>LDL Summer (50POE)</b>	63.5	64.0	64.5	65.0	65.5	66.1	66.6
<b>LDL Winter (10POE)</b>	57.2	57.0	56.7	56.3	55.9	55.5	55.1
<b>LDL Summer (10POE)</b>	67.2	67.7	68.2	68.8	69.4	70.0	70.6
<b>LDL Consolidated Forecast<sup>3</sup></b>	64.6	65.1	65.6	66.1	66.7	67.3	67.8

**Figure 3-3 Demand forecast**



**3.1.2 Capacitance forecast**

The network capacitive forecast was developed based on the characteristics of each zone substation supply area, the standard topology of cables installed for underground residential developments (URDs) and other known network augmentation.

Since the growth in capacitance is strongly related to the growth of URD, the forecast was made in 5 year increments as the timing of growth on an annual basis is not certain. The growth is expected to be a step function of new URDs that are being established, rather than a smooth and gradual increase each year. However, the capacitive current growth has been extrapolated to create an indicative annual trend, as shown below, to provide a view on the timing of when intervention is likely to be required.

As stated in section 2.4, the ASC limit is dependent on the damping characteristics of the network that individual zone substation supplies, including the effect of earth resistivity in the zone substation supply area and pollution (salt) on insulators. AusNet Services has attempted to model network damping to forecast ASC limits. The models were based on Tranche 1 zone substations so the outputs could be compared to measured data to test accuracy. The models developed to date have not accurately calculated the damping as measured in Tranche 1 and

<sup>3</sup> The forecast is the weighted sum of the summer forecasts, calculated as 30% of the 10POE summer forecast plus 70% of the 50POE summer forecast.

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investigations are continuing. As a result, the actual damping characteristics specific to each network can only be measured once a REFCL installation is operating.

The ASC limit of 100A that is used for planning purposes is based on learnings from the Tranche 1 installations and consideration of differences with the Tranche 2 zone substation network supply areas.

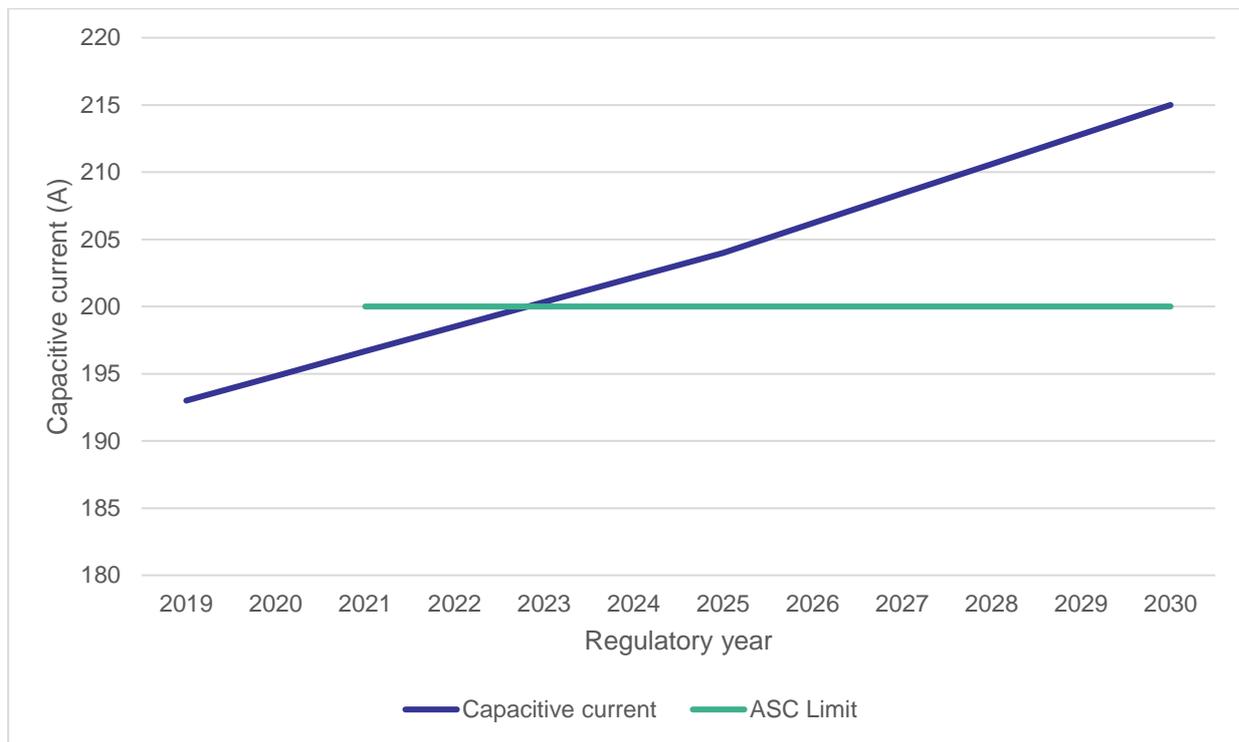
AusNet Services is acting prudently to address the network capacitive limits at each Tranche 2 zone substation by deferring investment until the network damping can be accurately measured when the REFCL is brought online whilst working on refining network damping modelling. In the event the capacitance is identified to be greater than the ASC limit and compliance with the Regulatory obligations cannot be met, AusNet Services will utilise the time extension provisions in the Regulations to implement solutions to achieve the Required Capacity.

LDL will have two standard ASCs installed by 31 May 2021 which, for planning purposes, is assumed to have a combined capacitive current limit of 200A. The table and chart below demonstrate that the capacitive current limit may be exceeded by 2024 and will continue to increase.

**Table 3-3 LDL capacitive current forecast**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>LDL capacitive current</b>	195	197	199	200	202	204	206
<b>ASC Limit</b>		200	200	200	200	200	200
<b>Excess capacitive current</b>					2	4	6

**Figure 3-4 Capacitive Current Forecast for LDL – 2019 to 2030**



Overhead feeders contribute a lower amount of capacitive current compared to underground cables. Table 3-4 presents estimates of the capacitive current ( $I_{CO}$ ) per feeder. The total capacitive current was split proportionally based on the amount of underground cable per feeder. This identifies if any feeders are expected to exceed the individual feeder limit of 80A and also where the greatest capacitive current reduction can be achieved. LDL21 has the highest amount of capacitive current, and is therefore considered in more detail in section 4.

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The table also shows that the capacitive current is not split evenly between the buses, with bus 1 having 33A in 2019 and increasing to 35A in 2026 while Bus 2 has 160A in 2019 increasing to 171 in 2026.

We note that the imbalance of the capacitive current between the two buses and the individual limit on Bus 2 being exceeded is being addressed as part of the Tranche 2 REFCL Program.

**Table 3-4 Estimated Capacitive Current contribution per feeder**

Feeder	Forecast $I_{CO}$ (A) 2026
LDL11	8.6
LDL12	2.4
LDL13	5.1
LDL14	19.3
LDL21	63.4
LDL22	17.6
LDL23	45
LDL24	44.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>206</b>

### 3.2 Identified need

As shown in section 3.1, due to expected growth in AusNet Services network, additional works will be required to maintain compliance with the Required Capacity in the Regulations during the 2022-2026 regulatory control period.

The forecast continued residential growth, network augmentation in the LDL supply area, particularly URDs which increase the capacitive current on the network, means that the capacitive current capacity of the REFCLs at LDL may exceed the capacitive current limit at LDL in 2024. The following key issues arise:

- Since two REFCLs are already planned to be installed as part of Tranche 2, it is not currently possible to install a third REFCL based on current technology (Swedish Neutral's software solution);
- The zone substation is forecast to exceed its planning limit of 200A (two REFCLs installed).

As the demand growth is not identified to be a constraint for the zone substation, AusNet Services needs to identify the most economic option to address the capacitive current constraint that will affect the REFCLs.

## 4 Options analysis

The options identified below are based on the best knowledge currently available on the network, including ASC limit and forecast capacitive current growth.

AusNet Services has identified six options that could maintain compliance with the Regulations. These are summarised in Table 4-1.

Initial assessment of the six options found that four were non-credible. The reasons for this assessment are set out in in Table 4-1.

Two of these options (options 3 and 6) were assessed as credible options and are discussed further in section 4.1 and 4.2.

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Table 4-1 Options Reviewed

Option	Discussion	Credible
Option 1 - Business as Usual	The Business as Usual option maintains the status quo at LDL which will entail no additional investment at LDL to manage the impact of the capacitive current. With an increasing capacitive current forecast, LDL may become non-compliant with the Regulations, the community served by the LDL zone substation would be exposed to increased risk of fire starts from 22kV phase-to-earth faults, and AusNet Services will be subject to penalties under the Act. On this basis, Option 1 is not a credible option.	N
Option 2 - Capacitance/Load Transfer	Investigation of the network found that there are no options to transfer load away from LDL to adjacent substations that would provide sufficient reduction of capacitive current at LDL to below 100A per REFCL. Hence, this option is not technically feasible and therefore a non-credible option.	N
Option 3 - Install isolation transformer and undergrounding work	This option proposed to install an isolation transformer to reduce the capacitive current at LDL by isolating the Mount Dandenong 22kV network Feeder LDL21 past switch LD727. This will also require undergrounding 350m of overhead line. This is a credible option and is discussed further in section 4.1	Y
Option 4 – Remote REFCL	The remote REFCL solution is currently under development by AusNet Services. It isolates part of a feeder and protects that isolated section with its own REFCL. The remote REFCL can be located no closer than 100m to the zone substation due to earthing issues. The following issues were identified with this option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least 1 remote REFCLs is required by 2024</li> <li>they require at least 30m x 30m land size in a developed urban area which will be difficult and expensive to acquire</li> <li>the cost excluding land is expected to be \$7.5 million</li> </ul> Therefore, this option is considered non-credible due to difficulty and risk of purchasing land and cost compared to other options.	N
Option 5 - Install third REFCL	There is currently no REFCL software solution to operate three REFCLs at a single zone substation. Hence, this is not technically feasible and therefore not a credible option	N
Option 6 - New Zone Substation	This is a viable option and is discussed further in section 4.2.	Y

#### 4.1 Option 3– Install isolation transformer and undergrounding work

This option proposes to install an isolation transformer at LDL to reduce the capacitive current that LDL is subjected. The requirement for this approach is that all conductors downstream of the isolation transformer are underground cables and it requires and an exemption to be granted by the Governor in Council. There is precedence in receiving exemptions for this approach and an established process.

In section 3, LDL21 feeder was identified as having the highest capacitive current. The Mount Dandenong 22kV network (Feeder LDL21 past switch LD727) is almost entirely underground. The last major overhead section (Figure 4-1), which is approximately 350m in length of HV ABC, is installed along a narrow road that is cut into rock. Undergrounding this remaining overhead section, if HV ABC is not be exempt, and the installation of an isolation transformer will provide an expected reduction of 50A of capacitive current.

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Figure 4-1 LDL21 Mount Dandenong, highlighted section HVABC



This solution will enable LDL to remain compliant until at least 2028 when the next intervention is forecast to be required. The scope of work to implement this option is:

- one isolation transformer;
- appropriately located land; and
- undergrounding 350m of overhead HV ABC and associated assets,

There is a high risk of being unable to acquire the land in the necessary location for the isolation transformer, and there is very little ability to change the location and still achieve the same current reduction. This risk can be mitigated through additional undergrounding to the isolation transformer location but will result in an increased cost.

This option will also require exemption by the Governor in Council.

There will be some impact to the community due to the installation of an isolation transformer in an urban area. However, it is the least cost technically feasible option and hence it is recommended at the preferred option.

The estimated cost of the option is \$1.8 million (\$'real, 2019) with an NPC of \$1.5 million (\$'real,2019).

## 4.2 Option 6 – New Zone Substation

Installing a new zone substation is a technically viable option. However, it is a high cost solution and there would also be a significant negative social impact due to the land area required to accommodate a new zone substation and increased overhead network for feeder exits. Given that this is an established area, it is likely to be difficult to find available land for the ZSS.

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Therefore, whilst establishing a new zone substation would address the technical issues, it is not considered as the preferred solution as there is a more cost effective alternative that maintains compliance at LDL.

The cost of a new REFCL-protected single transformer ZSS is more than \$20 million, excluding land acquisition costs. The NPC of this option is greater than \$15 million, which is significantly higher than Option 3.

### 4.3 Option comparison

The two credible options studied in this report are summarised below. The comparison of the options shows that option 3 is the preferred option.

**Table 4-2 Feasible Options Comparison**

Option	Technical feasibility	Cost	NPC	Maintains Compliance	Social impact	Preferred
Option 3 - Install isolation transformer and undergrounding work	Yes	\$1.8 M	\$1.7 M	Needs exemption.	Minor impact	Yes
Option 6 - New Zone Substation	Yes, but longer lead time than Option 3	Greater than \$20 M	Greater than \$15 M	Yes	Yes	No

## 5 Recommendation

It is recommended that option 3 (installation of an isolation transformer and undergrounding work) is approved. This is an established solution which has already been deployed in part at other zone substations.

This solution will require a technical exemption to be granted by the Governor in Council. There is precedent in receiving technical exemptions for isolation of underground cables. The estimated cost for the REFCL and associated works is \$1.824 million (\$'real, 2019).

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## 6 Appendix A

### 6.1 The Regulation stipulates the requirements

AusNet Services' network's geographical location means that it is exposed to extreme bushfire risk. These conditions warrant significant investment to mitigate the risk of bushfires that may occur following earth faults on the distribution network.

The Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission, established in 2009, made several recommendations with respect to fires initiated from electricity distribution networks. Subsequently, the Victorian Government established the Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce (**PBST**) to investigate new cost efficient and effective technologies and operational practices to reduce catastrophic bushfire risk.

The PBST identified Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (**REFCLs**) installed in zone substations as an efficient and effective technology.

The *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (Amended Bushfire Mitigation Regulations)*, which came into operation on 1 May 2016, set out new requirements for major electricity companies including the requirement for Polyphase Electric Lines (defined as multiphase distribution between 1 kV and 22 kV) at selected zone substations to have the following abilities:

- to reduce the voltage on the faulted conductor for high impedance faults to 250 volts within 2 seconds
- to reduce the voltage on the faulted conductor for low impedance faults to
  - i. 1900 volts within 85 milliseconds; and
  - ii. 750 volts within 500 milliseconds; and
  - iii. 250 volts within 2 seconds; and
- Demonstrate during diagnostic tests for high impedance faults to limit
  - i. Fault current to 0.5 amps or less; and
  - ii. The thermal energy on the electric line to that resulting from a maximum  $I^2t$  value of 0.10 A<sup>2</sup>s;

The Amended Bushfire Mitigation Regulations define the low and high impedance faults as follows:

- High impedance = a resistance value in ohms that is twice the nominal phase-to-ground voltage. This is equal to 25.4 kilohms or a fault current of 0.5 amps on a 22 kV network.
- Low impedance = resistance value in Ohms that is the nominal phase-to-ground network voltage divided by 31.75. This is equal to 400 Ohms or a fault current of 31.75 Amps on a 22 kV network.

### 6.2 The Act stipulates non-compliance penalties

The penalties for not complying with the requirements set out in the Regulations are set out in the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* (the **Act**). The Act states that there will be a fine of up to \$2 million for each point less than the prescribed number of points that must be achieved at each of the three specified dates and an ongoing fine of \$5,500 per day that compliance is not achieved.

The detail of the fines is set out in Clause 120M (3) which states a major electricity company is liable to pay:

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- a** *if subsection (1)(a) or (b) [(1)(a) - A major electricity company must ensure that for the initial period, a sufficient number of zone substations in its supply network are complying substations so that the total number of allocated substation points prescribed in respect of all of the complying substations is not less than 30 (the period 1 minimum points); and (1)(b) for the intermediate period, a sufficient number of zone substations in its supply network are complying substations so that the total number of allocated substation points prescribed in respect of all of the complying substations is not less than 55 (the period 2 minimum points)] is contravened, a pecuniary penalty not exceeding \$2 000 000 for every point forming the difference between the total number of allocated substation points prescribed in respect of all of the complying substations and, as the case require:
 
  - i** *the period 1 minimum points; or*
  - ii** *the period 2 minimum points; and**
- b** *if subsection (1)(c) [on or after 1 May 2023, of if Energy Safe Victoria specifies a later date under section 120X, that date, all zone substations in its supply network are complying substations] is contravened, a pecuniary penalty not exceeding \$2 000 000 for every allocated substation point prescribed in respect of each zone substation that is not a complying substation; and*
- c** *if there is a continuing contravention of subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c), a pecuniary penalty that is a daily amount not exceeding \$5500 for each day that contravention continues after service on the major electricity company by Energy Safe Victoria of notice of that contravention.*

### 6.3 Exemptions and time extensions

Electricity businesses can seek an exemption from both the Act and Regulations.

Exemption from the Act can be sought under section 120W of the Act from the requirements under section 120M of the Act. An exemption requires the Director of ESV to consult with the Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change and Governor in Council approval. The process can take up to 6 months.

Clause 13 of the Regulations allows for the electricity businesses to apply for exemptions from complying with the requirements of (7)(1)(ha) and (7)(1)(hb).

#### **13 Exemptions**

- 2** *Energy Safe Victoria may, in writing, exempt a specified operator or major electricity company from any of the requirements of these Regulations.*
- 3** *An exemption under subregulation (1) may specify conditions to which the exemption is subject.*

Time extension requests under S120X of the Act can be made to the Director of Energy Safe Victoria clearly stating the reasons for the request.