

OPTIONS EVALUATION REPORT (OER)



TL Low Spans Stage 2

OER 000000001556 revision 2.0

Ellipse project no.: P0009031

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Project reason: Capability - Improved Asset Management

Project category: Prescribed - Augmentation

Approvals

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Change history

Revision	Date	Amendment
0	20 October 2016	Initial issue
1	8 December 2016	Update to format
2	9 November 2017	Update for revised capex estimate and ALARP methodology

1. Need/Opportunity

Transmission lines are designed and constructed to achieve standard electrical clearances of the conductor at specific operating conditions. At present, the accepted Australian industry standard is AS7000 for the Design of Overhead Lines. This standard takes into account a range of safety and environmental factors including the expansion of the conductor due to heating (known as sag) and movement of the conductor due to strong winds (known as blowout). The minimum electrical clearances that should be achieved when the conductor reaches its maximum operating temperature is commonly referred to as the line design temperature.

Revised planning studies¹ performed in April 2016 determined the maximum foreseeable operating temperature of a number of transmission lines with known spans violating AS7000 minimum clearances (low spans). The transmission lines analysed in this study are not included in any other low span projects to date.

These revised operating temperatures have been used to calculate the low spans which exist on the transmission lines studied. A risk assessment² has been applied to determine which of these spans are expected to require remediation to mitigate the public safety risk they present to an acceptable level. In order to fulfil the requirements of the AS 5577 – Electricity Network Safety Management Systems, the public safety risk presented by the low spans must be reduced As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP).

2. Related Needs/Opportunities

- > Need ID 1427: 20 330kV Transmission Line Renewal – Consideration should be given to combining the works in this Need.
- > Need ID 1408: 23 330kV Transmission Line Renewal – Consideration should be given to combining the works in this Need.

3. Options

All dollar values in this document are expressed in un-escalated 2016/17 dollars.

Base Case

The planning study, 'Low Span Tower Transmission Lines – Northern/Central/Southern Regions – April 2016', has identified the revised operating temperatures used to determine the low span issues which exist on the transmission lines studied. A risk assessment has been performed to identify the spans which present a higher risk to public safety (due to magnitude of violation and location of the violation) and the spans which present a lower risk to public safety. A summary of these can be found in Need/Opportunity Statement (NOS) NOS 1556.

Under a base case 'do nothing' option, the associated risk cost from the issues identified is \$0.53m per annum. A breakdown of the Base Case risk cost by category is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Base Case Risk Cost by Category (\$ million)

Risk Category	Lower Risk Spans Risk Cost per annum	Higher Risk Spans Risk Cost per annum	Total Risk Cost per annum
Reliability (System)	0.00	0.19	0.20

¹ Low Span Tower Transmission Lines – Northern/Central/Southern Regions – April 2016 planning study – on TransGrid's Project Document Governance System (PDGS).

² TransGrid Low Span Risk Management Approach.

Risk Category	Lower Risk Spans Risk Cost per annum	Higher Risk Spans Risk Cost per annum	Total Risk Cost per annum
Financial	0	0.01	0.01
Operational/Compliance	0	0	0
People (Safety)	0.01	0.31	0.31
Environment	0	0	0
Reputation	0	0	0
Total	0.01	0.51	0.53

It can be seen from Table 1 that the highest risk cost is associated with the 'people (safety)' category due to the significant consequences of uncontrolled electrical discharge with the low spans. The other main contributor to the overall risk cost is the 'reliability (system)' category as a result of associated outages.

Option A — Remediation of 'High Risk' Low Spans [OFR 1556A, OFS 1556A]

This option covers the remediation of low spans which are deemed to be of 'higher risk' to public safety. Spans deemed 'lower risk' shall have implemented engineering controls to restrict access to the area (where trafficable) or administrative controls to reduce the public safety risk So Far As Is Reasonably Practical (SFAIRP). The list of all 'high' and 'lower risk' low spans under this option is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 – Low Spans Stage 2 Scope of Works

Line	From	To	Lower Risk Spans	Higher Risk Spans
61	Bannaby	Gullen Range	0	2
31	Regentville	Bayswater	0	0
L1	Tumut 3 PS	Lower Tumut	0	0
L3	Tumut 3 PS	Lower Tumut	0	0
L5	Tumut 3 PS	Lower Tumut	0	0
M9	Murray	Murray 1	1	1
62	Wagga 330	Jindera	1	2
3W	Kangaroo Valley	Capital Wind Farm	2	2
6	Capital Wind Farm	Canberra	0	1
33	Liddell	Bayswater	0	0
72	Wellington	Mt Piper	0	1
0X1	Red Cliffs	Buronga	0	2
X5/1	Balranald	Darlington Point	3	0
X5/3	Buronga	Balranald	3	0
66	Lower Tumut	Murray	14	6

Line	From	To	Lower Risk Spans	Higher Risk Spans
65	Upper Tumut	Murray	6	10
64	Upper Tumut	Lower Tumut	1	1
20	Sydney North	Sydney West	2	1
29	Sydney West	Vineyard	0	0
27	Sydney East	Sydney North	1	0
30	Sydney West	Liverpool	0	4
X2	Buronga	Broken Hill	4	4
92	Vales Point	Newcastle	0	0
78	Sydney South	Ingleburn	0	0
94	Tomago	Newcastle	0	0
87	Armidale	Coffs Harbour	1	0
23	Munmorah	Vales Point	1	0
38	Sydney West	Regentville	0	0
37	Kemps Creek	Macarthur	0	2
9W	Tomago	Waratah West	0	0
Total			40	39

It is estimated that the capital expenditure associated with the refurbishment outlined in this option is \$6.50m \pm 25%. Details can be found in Section 6 of Option Feasibility Study (OFS) OFS 1556A.

Following the refurbishment under this option, the risk cost associated with the remaining 'lower risk' spans not remediated is \$0.01m per annum. A breakdown of the Option A risk cost by category is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Option A Risk Cost by category (\$ million)

Risk Category	Annual Risk Cost
Reliability (System)	0.00
Financial	0
Operational/Compliance	0
People (Safety)	0.01
Environment	0
Reputation	0
Total	0.01

The total projected risk reduction as a result of implementing Option A is \$0.51m per annum. It can be seen from Table 3 that the majority of the risk reduction is expected to come from the ‘people (safety)’ category from the elimination of the electrical hazard. Some reduction is expected in the ‘reliability (system)’ category due to the decrease in likelihood of outages from low spans.

Option B — Remediation of All Low Spans [OFR 1556B, OFS 1556B]

This option covers remediation of all low spans (‘higher’ and ‘lower risk’) as summarised in the above Table 2.

It is estimated that the capital expenditure associated with the refurbishment outlined in this option is \$10.00m ±25%. Details can be found in Section 6 of OFS 1556B.

Following the remediation of all low spans under this option, the remaining risk cost associated with all the new compliant spans is zero.

All options detailed in Section 3 above are considered to be technically feasible³.

4. Evaluation

4.1 Commercial Evaluation

The commercial evaluation of the technically feasible options is set out in Table 4. Details of the Net Present Value (NPV) calculations for Options A and B are provided in Attachment 1.

Table 4 — Commercial Evaluation (\$ million)

Option	Description	Total capex	Annual opex	Annual Post Project Risk Cost	Economic NPV @10%	Financial NPV @10%	Rank
Base Case	Do Nothing	N/A	N/A	0.53	N/A	N/A	3
A	Remediation of ‘Higher Risk’ Low Spans	6.50	-	0.01	(1.68)	(2.91)	1
B	Remediation of All Low Spans	10.00	-	0	(4.59)	(5.84)	2

The commercial evaluation is based on:

- > A 10% discount rate
- > A life of the investment of 20 years and a corresponding residual/terminal value

Discount rate sensitivities based on TransGrid’s current AER-determined pre-tax real regulatory Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) of 6.75% and 13% appear in Table 5.

³ An option is technically feasible if TransGrid reasonably considers that there is a high likelihood that the option, if developed, will provide the relevant service while complying with all relevant laws.

Table 5 — Discount Rate Sensitivities (\$ million)

Option	Description	Economic NPV @13%	Economic NPV @6.75%
A	Remediation of 'Higher Risk' Low Spans	(2.14)	(0.78)
B	Remediation of All Low Spans	(4.89)	(3.88)

4.2 SFAIRP/ALARP Evaluation

In the context of the Network Asset Risk Assessment Methodology, the SFAIRP (So Far As Is Reasonably Practicable)/ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practical) principle is applicable to the following Key Hazardous Events:

- > Uncontrolled discharge or contact with electricity (low span)

Options to reduce the network safety risk as per the risk treatment hierarchy have been considered in other lifecycle stages of the asset, and it has been determined that no reasonably practicable options exist to reduce the risk further than those capital investment options listed in Table 6.

Evaluation of the proposed options has been completed against the SFAIRP/ALARP obligation, as required by the Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The Key Hazardous Events and the disproportionality multipliers considered in the evaluation are as follows:

- > Uncontrolled discharge or contact with electricity (low span) – 6 times the environment (bushfire) risk, 6 times the safety risk and 10% of the reliability risk (applicable to safety)

Table 6 – Feasible Options (\$ thousand)

Option	Description	CAPEX	Expected Life	Annualised CAPEX
Base	Do Nothing	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Remediation of 'Higher Risk' Low Spans	6,500	20 years	602
B	Remediation of All Low Spans	10,000	20 years	926

Table 7 – Annual Risk Calculations (\$ thousand)

Option	Annual Residual Risk			Annual Risk Savings		
	Safety Risk	Reliability Risk	Bushfire Risk	Safety Risk	Reliability Risk	Bushfire Risk
Base	314	196	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	6	4	0	308	191	0
B	0	0	0	314	196	0

Table 8 – Reasonably Practicable Test (\$ thousand)

Option	Network Safety Risk Reduction ⁴	Annualised CAPEX	Reasonably practicable ⁵ ?
A	1,867	602	Yes
B	1,904	926	Yes

From the above evaluation, it is considered that both Options A and B are reasonably practicable.

4.3 Preferred Option

From the SFAIRP/ALARP evaluation, it is considered that both Options A and B are reasonably practicable and both options provide a similar level of network safety risk reduction. In order to satisfy the organisation's SFAIRP/ALARP obligations, one of these options is required to be undertaken. Option A is the more commercially practicable of the two options as it achieves only \$0.02m per annum less risk reduction compared to Option B at a considerably lower capital cost. As a result, it is the preferred option and it is proposed that it be scoped in further detail.

Capital and Operating Expenditure

The estimated capital expenditure associated with the preferred Option A is \$6.50m \pm 25%. The vast majority of this expenditure is proposed to be carried out in 2022-2023.

In comparison, the estimated capital expenditure associated with Option B for the remediation of all identified low spans is \$10.00m \pm 25%, with the vast majority proposed to be carried out in 2022-2023.

No material change in operating expenditure to any of the lines listed above is expected as a result of the works under both Options A and B.

5. Recommendation

From the above SFAIRP/ALARP evaluation in accordance with the regulatory requirements, and the commercial and technical evaluation of the available options, it is recommended that detailed scoping for the remediation of 'higher risk' low spans as outlined under Option A is undertaken.

⁴ The Network Safety Risk Reduction is calculated as 6 x Bushfire Risk Reduction + 6 x Safety Risk Reduction + 0.1 x Reliability Risk Reduction.

⁵ Reasonably practicable is defined as whether the annualised CAPEX is less than the Network Safety Risk Reduction.

Attachment 1 – Commercial Evaluation Report

Option A NPV Calculation

Project_Option Name		Low Spans Stage 2 Option A - Remediation of High Risk Spans			
1. Financial Evaluation (excludes VCR benefits)					
NPV @ standard discount rate	10.00%	-\$2.91m	NPV / Capital (Ratio)	-0.45	
NPV @ upper bound rate	13.00%	-\$3.07m	Pay Back Period (Yrs)	0.00 Yrs	
NPV @ lower bound rate (WACC)	6.75%	-\$2.49m	IRR%	0.42%	
2. Economic Evaluation (includes VCR benefits but excludes tax benefits from non-cash transactions, ENS penalty and overall tax cost)					
NPV @ standard discount rate	10.00%	-\$1.68m	NPV / Capital (Ratio)	-0.26	
NPV @ upper bound rate	13.00%	-\$2.14m	Pay Back Period (Yrs)	12.56 Yrs	
NPV @ lower bound rate (WACC)	6.75%	-\$0.78m	IRR%	4.95%	
Benefits					
Risk cost	As Is	To Be	Benefit	VCR Benefit	\$0.19m
Systems (reliability)	\$0.20m	\$0.00m	\$0.19m	ENS Penalty	\$0.00m
Financial	\$0.01m	\$0.00m	\$0.01m	All other risk benefits	\$0.32m
Operational/compliance	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	Total Risk benefits	\$0.52m
People (safety)	\$0.31m	\$0.01m	\$0.31m	Benefits in the financial NPV*	\$0.32m
Environment	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	*excludes VCR benefits	
Reputation	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	Benefits in the economic NPV**	\$0.52m
Total Risk benefits	\$0.53m	\$0.01m	\$0.52m	**excludes ENS penalty	
Cost savings and other benefits			\$0.00m		
Total Benefits			\$0.52m		
Other Financial Drivers					
Incremental opex cost pa (no depreciation)			\$0.00m	Write-off cost	\$0.00m
Capital - initial \$m			-\$6.47m	Major Asset Life (Yrs)	20.00 Yrs
Residual Value - initial investment			\$0.32m	Re-investment capital	\$0.00m
Capitalisation period			3.00 Yrs	Start of the re-investment period	0.00 Yrs

Option B NPV Calculation

Project_Option Name

Low Spans Stage 2 Option B - Remediation of All Low Spans

1. Financial Evaluation (excludes VCR benefits)

NPV @ standard discount rate	10.00%	-\$5.84m	NPV / Capital (Ratio)	-0.58
NPV @ upper bound rate	13.00%	-\$5.85m	Pay Back Period (Yrs)	-0.04 Yrs
NPV @ lower bound rate (WACC)	6.75%	-\$5.62m	IRR%	-3.54%

2. Economic Evaluation (includes VCR benefits but excludes tax benefits from non-cash transactions, ENS penalty and overall tax cost)

NPV @ standard discount rate	10.00%	-\$4.59m	NPV / Capital (Ratio)	-0.46
NPV @ upper bound rate	13.00%	-\$4.89m	Pay Back Period (Yrs)	19.07 Yrs
NPV @ lower bound rate (WACC)	6.75%	-\$3.88m	IRR%	0.44%

Benefits

	As Is	To Be	Benefit		
Risk cost				VCR Benefit	\$0.20m
Systems (reliability)	\$0.20m	\$0.00m	\$0.20m	ENS Penalty	\$0.00m
Financial	\$0.01m	\$0.00m	\$0.01m	All other risk benefits	\$0.33m
Operational/compliance	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	Total Risk benefits	\$0.53m
People (safety)	\$0.31m	\$0.00m	\$0.31m		
Environment	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	Benefits in the financial NPV*	\$0.33m
Reputation	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	*excludes VCR benefits	
Total Risk benefits	\$0.53m	\$0.00m	\$0.53m		
Cost savings and other benefits			\$0.00m	Benefits in the economic NPV**	\$0.53m
Total Benefits			\$0.53m	**excludes ENS penalty	

Other Financial Drivers

Incremental opex cost pa (no depreciation)	\$0.00m	Write-off cost	\$0.00m
Capital - initial \$m	-\$10.01m	Major Asset Life (Yrs)	20.00 Yrs
Residual Value - initial investment	\$0.00m	Re-investment capital	\$0.00m
Capitalisation period	3.00 Yrs	Start of the re-investment period	0.00 Yrs