

OPTIONS EVALUATION REPORT (OER)



Line 39 330kV Transmission Line Renewal

OER 000000001276 revision 2.0

Ellipse project no.: P0005459

TRIM file: [TRIM No]

Project reason: Capability - Asset Replacement for end of life condition

Project category: Prescribed - Replacement

Approvals

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Date submitted for approval	6 December 2016	

Change history

Revision	Date	Amendment
0	19 June 2016	Initial issue
1	20 September 2016	Revised for Updated Risk Cost
2	27 October 2016	Revised for New SFAIRP/ALARP Methodology
3	6 December 2016	Update to format

1. Need/opportunity

Line 39 a single circuit steel tower 330kV transmission line between Bannaby and Sydney West 330kV Substations, consisting of 272 structures with a route length of 114.1 km. The transmission line is a key link between Canberra, the southern highlands and the Sydney metropolitan area. This transmission line was originally constructed in 1968 as the Yass to Sydney West 330kV line before it was cut in to Bannaby in 2010. It generally traverses through National Parks, ridgetops and small rural land holdings.

Network Asset Condition Assessment (NACA) [NACA 1276](#) performed in November 2015 has identified a number of corrosion related issues with Line 39 which require rectification in the short – medium term (within the 2018-2023 Regulatory Control Period) to ensure that asset risk levels remain within an acceptable level in the longer term.

In addition to the condition issues identified, the single circuit transmission line structures used on Line 39 are known to contain particular deficiencies due to the design philosophies used at the time of its installation. Although the structures were designed to the standards at that time, following a number of structure failures in extreme wind events, investigations found that the towers were designed to a lower set of criteria with inadequacies in the governing load combinations when compared to more recent design philosophies and standards. A program to strengthen structures with utilisation over 85% at road crossings and public areas has occurred; however, not all structures have been strengthened. Due to this, it is considered essential that condition issues on these towers be addressed so that their capacity, and as a consequence, the security of supply, are not further reduced.

2. Related Needs/opportunities

Pre-requisite

There are no pre-requisite Needs.

Related

The following projects involving Line 39 may require coordination:

- > Need ID 1077 – Western Sydney Airport Asset Relocation

Dependent

There are no dependent Needs.

3. Options

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

Base Case

Network Asset Condition Assessment (NACA) [NACA 1276](#) has identified existing issues with the line which require rectification. A summary of these can be found in Need/Opportunity Statement (NOS) [NS 1276](#).

Under a Base Case 'run-to-fail' option, the associated risk cost from the issues identified in Table 1 is \$0.76m 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	Annual Risk Cost
Reliability (System)	0.01

Risk Category	Annual Risk Cost
Financial	0.02
Operational/Compliance	0
People (Safety)	0.06
Environment	0.67
Reputation	0
Total	0.76

It can be seen from Table 1 that the category with the highest risk cost is 'environment', mainly due to the considerable consequences of a bushfire event resulting from conductor drop. The other contributor to the overall risk cost is the 'people (safety)' category, due to the consequences of conductor drop failure and faulty tower earthing.

The risk cost per kilometre of line is \$0.007m per annum.

Option A — Line Refurbishment [[OFR 1276A](#), [OFS 1276A](#)]

This option involves the refurbishment of Line 39 by preventing corrosion to tower steelwork which could lead to asset failure and replacement of components which have reached end of life due to corrosion. The scope of this option is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 – Transmission Line 39 Option A scope of works

Issue	Qty	Remediation
Ground line corrosion of steel at footing	5 towers	> Abrasive blast cleaning of steelwork to remove any corrosion product, application of Zinga paint and concrete encasement to prevent future corrosion
Buried concrete foundations	14 towers	> Dig out tower legs, abrasive blast cleaning of steelwork to remove any corrosion product, application of Zinga paint and establishment of drainage channel
Corrosion of earth strap	14 towers	> Replacement of earth straps in line with current standard
Corrosion of fasteners	14 towers	> Replacement of fasteners > Assume 3% of fasteners per tower
Corrosion of earthwire attachment fittings	34 fittings	> Replacement of earthwire fittings
Corrosion of insulator pins	570 insulator strings	> Replacement with composite longrod insulators
Corrosion of earthwire	6 km of earthwire (3km of route length)	> Like for like replacement of SC/GZ earthwire

Issue	Qty	Remediation
Damaged conductor dampers	5% of line	> Replacement of Stockbridge vibration dampers
	336 dampers	> Assumed 24 vibration dampers per full tension span per phase
Damaged earthwire dampers	63% of line	> Replacement of spiral vibration dampers
	684 dampers	> Assumed 4 vibration dampers per full tension span per phase

It is estimated that the capital expenditure associated with the refurbishment outlined in this option is \$1.88m ±25%. Details can be found in Section 6 of Option Feasibility Study (OFS) [OFS 1276A](#).

Following the refurbishment under this option, the risk cost associated with the remediated line is \$0.13m 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
Financial	0.01
Operational/Compliance	0
People (Safety)	0.01
Environment	0.11
Reputation	0
Total	\$0.13

The total projected risk reduction as a result of implementing Option A is \$0.63m per annum. It can be seen from Table 3 that the majority of the risk cost reductions are in the ‘environment’ category, due to the decreased likelihood of conductor drop failure. Relative minor reductions in risk cost can be expected across the other categories.

The total projected risk reduction per kilometre of line is \$0.006m per annum.

Both the Base Case option and Option A outlined in Section 3 are considered to be technically feasible¹.

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) calculation for Option A are provided in Attachment 1.

¹ 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 4 — Commercial evaluation (\$ million)

Option	Description	Total capex	Annual opex	Annual post project risk cost	Economic NPV @10%	Financial NPV @10%	Rank
Base Case	Run-to-fail	N/A	N/A	0.76	N/A	N/A	2
A	Line refurbishment	1.88	-	0.13	2.62	2.59	1

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.

Table 5 — Discount rate sensitivities (\$ million)

Option	Description	Economic NPV @13%	Economic NPV @6.75%
A	Line refurbishment	1.76	4.07

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:

- > Structure failure
- > Conductor / earthwire drop
- > Uncontrolled discharge or contact with electricity (faulty earthing)

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 (So Far As Is Reasonably Practicable)/ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practical) 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:

- > Structure failure – 6 times the environment (bushfire) risk, 6 times the safety risk and 10% of the reliability risk (applicable to safety)
- > Conductor / earthwire drop – 6 times the environment (bushfire) risk, 6 times the safety risk and 10% of the reliability risk (applicable to safety)
- > Uncontrolled discharge or contact with electricity (faulty earthing) – 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	Run-to-fail	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Line refurbishment	1,880	20 years	94

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	59	7	673	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	10	2	106	49	5	567

Table 8 – Reasonably practicable test (\$ thousand)

Option	Network Safety Risk Reduction ²	Annualised CAPEX	Reasonably practicable ³ ?
A	3,695	94	Yes

From the above evaluation, it is considered that Option A is reasonably practicable.

4.3 Preferred option

From the SFAIRP/ALARP evaluation, Option A is considered to be reasonably practicable and is required to be undertaken in order to satisfy the organisation's SFAIRP/ALARP obligations.

Option A is also considered to be commercially viable (as per the commercial evaluation). For the aforementioned reasons, it is proposed that Option A be scoped in further detail.

Capital and operating expenditure

The estimated capital expenditure associated with the refurbishment outlined in this option is \$1.88m ±25%. The vast majority of this expenditure is proposed to be carried out in 2019-2020.

Should the Option A (Line Refurbishment) works not occur by the Need date, an increase in corrective maintenance and subsequent operating expenditure is expected.

Regulatory Investment Test

No Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) analysis is required as the works are condition based.

² The Network Safety Risk Reduction is calculated as 6 x Bushfire Risk Reduction + 6 x Safety Risk Reduction + 0.1 x Reliability Risk Reduction

³ Reasonably practicable is defined as whether the annualised CAPEX is less than the Network Safety Risk Reduction

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 refurbishment of Line 39 as outlined under Option A is undertaken.

Attachment 1 – Commercial evaluation report

Option A NPV calculation

Project_Option Name			Line 39 Refurbishment		
1. Financial Evaluation (excludes VCR benefits)					
NPV @ standard discount rate	10.00%	\$2.59m	NPV / Capital (Ratio)	1.38	
NPV @ upper bound rate	13.00%	\$1.74m	Pay Back Period (Yrs)	0.32 Yrs	
NPV @ lower bound rate (WACC)	6.75%	\$4.03m	IRR%	32.05%	
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%	\$2.62m	NPV / Capital (Ratio)	-0.87	
NPV @ upper bound rate	13.00%	\$1.76m	Pay Back Period (Yrs)	2.98 Yrs	
NPV @ lower bound rate (WACC)	6.75%	\$4.07m	IRR%	32.28%	
Benefits					
Risk cost	As Is	To Be	Benefit	VCR Benefit	\$0.00m
Systems (reliability)	\$0.01m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	ENS Penalty	\$0.00m
Financial	\$0.02m	\$0.01m	\$0.01m	All other risk benefits	\$0.63m
Operational/compliance	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	Total Risk benefits	\$0.63m
People (safety)	\$0.06m	\$0.01m	\$0.05m	Benefits in the financial NPV*	\$0.63m
Environment	\$0.67m	\$0.11m	\$0.57m	*excludes VCR benefits	
Reputation	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	\$0.00m	Benefits in the economic NPV**	\$0.63m
Total Risk benefits	\$0.76m	\$0.12m	\$0.63m	**excludes ENS penalty	
Cost savings and other benefits			\$0.00m		
Total Benefits			\$0.63m		
Other Financial Drivers					
Incremental opex cost pa (no depreciation)			\$0.00m	Write-off cost	\$0.00m
Capital - initial \$m			-\$1.88m	Major Asset Life (Yrs)	20.00 Yrs
Residual Value - initial investment			\$0.09m	Re-investment capital	\$0.00m
Capitalisation period			3.00 Yrs	Start of the re-investment period	0.00 Yrs