

12 February 2009

Victorian Bushfire Crisis Update

SP AusNet's electricity distribution network area includes a number of regions affected by the bushfires and the recent unprecedented weather conditions, including extreme winds and heat. As a result, damage has been sustained to a number of distribution poles and associated conductors, representing approximately 1% of SP AusNet's electricity distribution network. SP AusNet is still unable to access some of the fire-affected areas to review the condition of damaged assets.

SP AusNet welcomes the proposed establishment by the Victorian Government of a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Victorian bushfire crisis and will extend its full support and assistance to the Inquiry.

SP AusNet is working closely with the relevant authorities currently tasked with reviewing and investigating the bushfires. SP AusNet will support, and cooperate with, Energy Safe Victoria, the Country Fire Authority, the Police and other relevant authorities.

It is with sadness that SP AusNet advises one of our employees has died with his wife in the Victorian bushfires. We extend our sympathies to his family, friends and colleagues and to all the people affected by this terrible tragedy.

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