

17 February 2009

Victorian Bushfire Crisis Update

SP AusNet was notified that a writ was filed in the Supreme Court of Victoria at 4.40pm on Monday, 16 February 2009. The writ alleges that "faulty and/or defective power lines" caused loss and damage.

SP AusNet believes the claim is both premature and inappropriate, given the establishment of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Victorian bushfire crisis. However, SP AusNet will vigorously defend the claim.

SP AusNet's safety record, asset management and maintenance programs are in line with good industry practice, and its bushfire mitigation and vegetation management programs comply with Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations.

If the claim is pursued, SP AusNet advises that it has liability insurance which provides cover for bushfire liability. SP AusNet reviews its insurance cover annually and ensures it is commensurate with the scale and size of its operations and with industry standards and practice.

SP AusNet's insurance is arranged with local and global insurers, many of which specialise in the insurance requirements of the utility industry. All insurers participating in SP AusNet's liability insurance have a minimum rating agency classification of A- and most are rated A and above.

SP AusNet welcomes yesterday's release of the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission of Inquiry and, as previously stated, will extend its full support and assistance to the Inquiry.

For further information contact:

SP AusNet

Investor Relations

Lucinda Kerr
Manager, Investor Relations
+61 3 9695 6633 or +61 421 387 687

Media Relations

Louisa Graham
Manager, Corporate Communications
+61 3 9695 6401 or +61 418 358 327

SP Australia Networks (Distribution) Ltd
ABN 37 108 788 245

SP Australia Networks (Transmission) Ltd
ABN 48 116 124 362

SP Australia Networks (Finance) Trust
ARSN 116 783 914

SP Australia Networks (RE) Ltd
ABN 46 109 977 371
AFS Licence No. 294117 as responsible entity for SP
Australia Networks (Finance) Trust

Level 31
2 Southbank Boulevard Southbank
Victoria 3006 Australia

Locked Bag 14051
Melbourne City Mail Centre
Victoria 8001 Australia

Tel: +61 3 9695 6000
Fax: +61 3 9695 6666