



Technical Bulletin

TB 0290A – Changes to the Pre-Summer Program Requirements

Purpose

This Technical Bulletin sets out changes to the due dates for the completion of the Pre-Summer Bushfire Inspection (PSBI) and rectification of Bushfire defects.

Background

In recent years, the Rural Fire Service has brought forward the start date for the bushfire fire season in response to conditions earlier in the year. This decision has been made at short notice and did not provide sufficient time for Endeavour Energy to respond and achieve compliance by the modified date. With the expectation that this trend will become more prevalent in future years, the due date for the PSBI program has been modified to match this experience.

Actions

For the 2020 and all subsequent PSBI programs, the effective due date for completion of PSBI defects will be 31 August each year.

This means:1

1. All network hardware defects identified as bushfire defects will be due by 31 August regardless of category
2. All private hardware defects will be managed to completion by 31 August using existing processes.
3. All vegetation defects identified through the LiDAR inspection process on bare conductors that have the potential (based on an assumed regrowth rate) to become A1 or A2 defects by 31st August will be rectified by 31 August.
4. All vegetation defects on bare conductors that are not completed as part of the 31 August due date that have the potential (based on an assumed regrowth rate) to

grow into an A1 / A2 defect by the end of the bushfire season will be completed by the date on which is defect is predicted to be an A2 or the 31 December, whichever comes first.

5. A1 and A2 vegetation defects (at the time of inspection) on covered conductors are considered bushfire defects and are due by the 31st August.
6. A3 and A4 vegetation defects (at the time of inspection) on covered conductors are not considered bushfire defects and will be managed as part of the routine vegetation program.
7. Where a hardware defect is found during the bushfire season, it will appear in the PSBI reporting and be reported as overdue from the date that it is found.

Implementation

The change of the due date for defects that form part of the PSBI process, does not change the process for managing network protection setting during TOBAN days.

To this end, where a defect is still open past the due date but the bushfire season has not officially started, the open defect will not be a trigger for modified network settings.

Where a vegetation defect is open past its due date but the growth analysis indicates that it has not reached the A2 defect stage, this will appear as an overdue defect but will not trigger modified protection settings.

If an overdue vegetation defect is audited and has not reached an A2 defect clearance, the distance can be measured and the A2 date recalculated. In this situation the defect will remain as an overdue defect but the date at which network protection settings are modified, can be reset.

Any defect that is overdue and reached the predicted A2 date, will trigger modified network settings.

All overdue bushfire hardware defects open during the bushfire period will also trigger modified network settings.

The routine vegetation maintenance program will prioritise the order of the cutting program base on the new start date of the bushfire period, along with the other requirements in MMI 0013 clause 5.11.2.

Summaries of the information above have been included below:

Bushfire Hardware & Vegetations Defects

Defect Type	Category	Sub Category	Due Date
Hardware Bushfire Defects	Found during PSBI Program	Endeavour Network	31 st of August
		Private Network	31 st of August
	Found during Bushfire Danger Period	All	Treated as overdue
Vegetation Defects Near Bare Conductors	A1 and A2 Defects	All	31 st of August
	A3 and A4 Defects	Assuming a regrowth rate, will become A1 and A2 Defects by 31 st August	31 st of August
		Assuming a regrowth rate, will become A1 and A2 Defects by 1 st March	The date on which the defect is predicted to be an A2 or 31 st of December, whichever comes first
Vegetation Near Covered Conductors	A1 – A2 Defects	All	31 st of August
	A3 – A4 Defects		Managed according to vegetation contract.

Network / Protection Settings

Has the Bushfire Season Started?	Type of Overdue Bushfire Defect	Trigger modified network settings?
No	Bushfire Hardware Defect	No
	Bushfire Vegetation Defect	No
Yes	Bushfire Hardware Defect	Yes
	A1 or A2 Bushfire Vegetation Defect or Extrapolated A3 or A4 Bushfire Vegetation Defect on Bare Conductors that have reached the A2 threshold	Yes

Impacted Standards

The contents of this technical bulletin will be included in the next update of the following standard(s):

- MMI 0034 – Pre-Summer Bushfire Inspection