



Technical Bulletin

TB 0308 – Clarification on Bushfire Defects

Purpose

This Technical Bulletin sets out to clarify the rectification requirements for Bushfire Defects found in and out of the Bushfire Danger Period, particular those found via the OLI/GLI processes.

This TB does not cover the vegetation clearance defects created as part of the LIDAR process.

Background

Bushfire Defects, as defined in MMI 0002, are *“A defect type, which has been assessed as having the ability, if left to deteriorate, to potentially produce an arc in a Bushfire Prone Area, and has a sufficient likelihood to warrant increased priority”* with the added requirement of *“These defects are to be rectified before the start of the Bushfire Danger Period.”*

The Bushfire Danger Period is “defined by the NSW Rural Fire Service which is nominally between 1st of October to 31st March each year, but may vary from year to year and in specific locations due to local conditions.”

In addition, MMI 0034 and SMI124, states that *“All network asset defects defined as being a [Bushfire Defect] must be rectified within the assigned defect prioritisation period or prior to the commencement of the bushfire risk period, whichever comes earlier”*.

Historically, the prioritisation / rectification requirements of bushfire defects found during the Bushfire Danger Period were not documented in any standards or procedures. This Technical Bulletin seeks to clarify that position.

New requirements

A risk analysis has been performed and the following requirements regarding defect rectification for Bushfire Defects shall be performed:

Timing of Identification of Bushfire Defect	Status	Requirement
Outside of the declared Bushfire Danger Period	Unchanged	All network asset defects defined as being a Bushfire Defect must be rectified within the assigned defect prioritisation period, as defined in MMI 0002, or prior to the commencement of the Bushfire Danger Period, whichever comes earlier
During* the declared Bushfire Danger Period	Clarified	Upon identification of a Bushfire Defect the following is to occur: 1. Immediate (within 24 hours) review by an OLIGLI auditor regarding compliance to MMI 0002, regarding defect type, priority and bushfire status (e.g. confirm the defect is a true bushfire defect as per the standards); 2. If the defect is deemed to have been correctly classified as a bushfire defect, the defect shall be given a priority of immediate and treated as Fault and Emergency works.

** defects found up to 14 days prior to the declared bushfire danger period may be treated as either F&E or as per the priority in MMI 0002 until the official start of the bushfire danger period. At the commencement of the bushfire danger period all such defects are to be classified as immediate and treated as Fault and Emergency works.*

Actions

Any bushfire defects found after the release of this standard, are to be rectified according to the table above.

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
- MMI 0002 – Distribution Overhead Defect Handbook
- SMI 124 – Maintenance Data Entry and Defect Prioritisation