



POWERCOR

DISTRIBUTION

ANNUAL

PLANNING

REPORT

Disclaimer

The purpose of this document is to provide information about actual and forecast constraints on Powercor's distribution network and details of these constraints, where they are expected to arise within the forward planning period. This document is not intended to be used for other purposes, such as making decisions to invest in generation, transmission or distribution capacity.

Whilst care was taken in the preparation of the information in this document, and it is provided in good faith, Powercor accepts no responsibility or liability for any loss or damage that may be incurred by any person acting in reliance on this information or assumptions drawn from it.

This Distribution Annual Planning Report (**DAPR**) has been prepared in accordance with the National Electricity Rules (**NER**), in particular Schedule 5.8, as well as the Electricity Distribution Code.

This document contains certain predictions, estimates and statements that reflect various assumptions concerning, amongst other things, economic growth and load growth forecasts that, by their nature, may or may not prove to be correct. This document also contains statements about Powercor's plans. These plans may change from time to time without notice and should therefore be confirmed with Powercor before any action is taken based on this document.

Powercor advises that anyone proposing to use the information in this document should verify its reliability, accuracy and completeness before committing to any course of action. Powercor makes no warranties or representations as to the document's reliability, accuracy and completeness and Powercor specifically disclaims any liability or responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Contents

1	OVERVIEW	7
1.1	PUBLIC CONSULTATION.....	8
2	BACKGROUND	9
2.1	WHO WE ARE	9
2.2	THE FIVE VICTORIAN DISTRIBUTORS	10
2.3	DELIVERING ELECTRICITY TO CUSTOMERS	11
2.4	OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AND ASSET STATISTICS	12
3	FACTORS IMPACTING NETWORK.....	14
3.1	DEMAND	14
3.2	FAULT LEVELS.....	15
3.3	VOLTAGE LEVELS	16
3.4	SYSTEM SECURITY	16
3.5	QUALITY OF SUPPLY TO OTHER NETWORK USERS	17
3.6	AGEING AND POTENTIALLY UNRELIABLE ASSETS	17
3.6.1	<i>Health Index</i>	17
3.7	SOLAR ENABLEMENT	18
3.8	REFCLS	19
3.8.1	<i>Zone substations</i>	19
3.8.2	<i>Other impacted areas of the network</i>	21
4	NETWORK PLANNING STANDARDS.....	23
4.1	APPROACHES TO PLANNING STANDARDS.....	23
4.2	APPLICATION OF THE PROBABILISTIC APPROACH TO PLANNING	23
5	FORECASTING DEMAND.....	25
5.1	MAXIMUM DEMAND FORECASTS.....	25
5.2	ZONE SUBSTATION METHODOLOGY.....	25
5.2.1	<i>Historical demand</i>	25
5.2.2	<i>Forecast demand</i>	26
5.2.3	<i>Definitions for zone substation forecast tables</i>	26
5.3	SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE METHODOLOGY.....	27
5.3.1	<i>Historical demand</i>	27
5.3.2	<i>Forecast demand</i>	27
5.3.3	<i>Definitions for sub-transmission line forecast tables</i>	28
5.4	PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION FEEDERS.....	28
5.4.1	<i>Forecast demand</i>	28
6	APPROACH TO RISK ASSESSMENT	29
6.1	ENERGY AT RISK	29
6.2	INTERPRETING “ENERGY AT RISK”	30
6.3	VALUING SUPPLY RELIABILITY FROM THE CUSTOMER’S PERSPECTIVE	31
7	ZONE SUBSTATIONS REVIEW.....	33
7.1	ZONE SUBSTATIONS WITH FORECAST SYSTEM LIMITATIONS OVERVIEW	33
7.2	ZONE SUBSTATIONS WITH FORECAST SYSTEM LIMITATIONS	35
7.2.1	<i>Altona (AL) zone substation</i>	35

7.2.2	<i>Bendigo (BGO) zone substation</i>	35
7.2.3	<i>Bacchus (BMH) Marsh zone substation</i>	36
7.2.4	<i>Cohuna (CHA) zone substation</i>	36
7.2.5	<i>Charam (CHM) zone substation</i>	37
7.2.6	<i>Cobram East (CME) zone substation</i>	37
7.2.7	<i>Cobden (COB) zone substation</i>	38
7.2.8	<i>Drysdale (DDL) zone substation</i>	38
7.2.9	<i>Eaglehawk (EHK) zone substation</i>	39
7.2.10	<i>Geelong City (GCY) zone substation</i>	40
7.2.11	<i>Geelong (GL) zone substation</i>	40
7.2.12	<i>Horsham (HSM) zone substation</i>	41
7.2.13	<i>Koroit (KRT) zone substation</i>	41
7.2.14	<i>Laverton (LV) zone substation</i>	42
7.2.15	<i>Laverton North 11kV (LVN11) zone substation</i>	43
7.2.16	<i>Merbein (MBN) zone substation</i>	43
7.2.17	<i>Mildura (MDA) zone substation</i>	44
7.2.18	<i>Mooroopna (MNA) zone substation</i>	44
7.2.19	<i>Maryborough (MRO) zone substation</i>	45
7.2.20	<i>Stawell (STL) zone substation</i>	45
7.2.21	<i>Truganina (TNA) zone substation</i>	46
7.2.22	<i>Terang (TRG) zone substation</i>	47
7.2.23	<i>Werribee (WBE) zone substation</i>	47
7.2.24	<i>Wemen (WMN) zone substation</i>	48
7.2.25	<i>Waurin Ponds (WPD) zone substation</i>	49
7.3	PROPOSED NEW ZONE SUBSTATIONS	50
7.3.1	<i>Tarneit zone substation (TRT)</i>	50
7.3.2	<i>Torquay zone substation (TQY)</i>	50
7.3.3	<i>Gheringhap zone substation (GHP)</i>	50
8	SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES REVIEW	51
8.1	SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES WITH FORECAST SYSTEM LIMITATIONS OVERVIEW	51
8.2	SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES WITH FORECAST SYSTEM LIMITATIONS	52
8.2.1	<i>GTS-GB-GL-GCY 66 kV sub-transmission loop</i>	52
8.2.2	<i>GTS-GLE-DDL 66 kV sub-transmission loop</i>	53
8.2.3	<i>KGTS-SHL 66 kV sub-transmission loop</i>	53
8.2.4	<i>RCTS-MDA-MBN 66 kV sub-transmission loop</i>	54
8.2.5	<i>SBY-GSB No.1 66 kV sub-transmission loop</i>	54
8.2.6	<i>TGTS-HTN-NRB 66 kV sub-transmission loop</i>	55
8.3	PROPOSED NEW SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES	56
9	PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION FEEDER REVIEWS	57
9.1	PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION FEEDERS WITH FORECAST SYSTEM LIMITATIONS OVERVIEW	57
9.2	PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION FEEDERS WITH FORECAST SYSTEM LIMITATIONS	58
9.2.1	<i>MLN021 (New MLN033 feeder)</i>	58
9.3	PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION FEEDERS	59
10	JOINT PLANNING	61
11	CHANGES TO ANALYSIS SINCE 2019	62
11.1	CONSTRAINTS ADDRESSED OR REDUCED DUE TO PROJECTS COMPLETED	62
11.2	NEW CONSTRAINTS IDENTIFIED	62
11.3	OTHER MATERIAL CHANGES	62
12	ASSET MANAGEMENT	64
12.1	ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FRAMEWORK	64
12.1.1	<i>Strategic Asset Management</i>	65

12.1.1.1.	Asset Management Objectives	65
12.1.1.2.	Asset Management Policy	66
12.1.1.3.	Strategic Asset Management Plan.....	66
12.1.1.4.	Asset Management Strategies.....	66
12.1.1.5.	Asset Class Strategies.....	66
12.1.2	<i>Asset Management Planning</i>	67
12.1.3	<i>Asset management delivery</i>	67
12.1.4	<i>Performance monitoring and review</i>	67
12.1.5	<i>Impact of Asset Management on System Limitations</i>	67
12.1.6	<i>Distribution Losses</i>	68
12.1.7	<i>Contact for further information</i>	68
13	ASSET MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGIES.....	69
13.1	'POLES AND WIRES'	69
13.1.1	<i>Location and timing of asset retirements</i>	72
13.2	TRANSFORMERS AND SWITCHGEAR	72
13.3	OTHER ITEMS OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	74
14	RETIREMENTS AND DE-RATINGS.....	75
14.1	INDIVIDUAL ASSETS	75
14.1.1	<i>Ballarat North (BAN) Zone Substation CB A LG4C 66kV Circuit Breaker</i>	78
14.1.2	<i>Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME14 22kV Circuit Breaker</i>	78
14.1.3	<i>Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME15 22kV Circuit Breaker</i>	79
14.1.4	<i>Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME16 22kV Circuit Breaker</i>	79
14.1.5	<i>Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME21 22kV Circuit Breaker</i>	80
14.1.6	<i>Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME22 22kV Circuit Breaker</i>	81
14.1.7	<i>Eaglehawk (EHK) Zone Substation CB A 66kV Circuit Breaker</i>	81
14.1.8	<i>Hamilton (HTN) Zone Substation CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker</i>	82
14.1.9	<i>Inglewood (IWD) Zone Substation Regulator</i>	83
14.1.10	<i>Koroit (KRT) Zone Substation KRT CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker</i>	83
14.1.11	<i>Nhill (NHL) Zone Substation NHL15, NHL 16 and NHL31 22kV Circuit Breakers</i>	84
14.1.12	<i>Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation OYN1 22kV Circuit Breaker</i>	85
14.1.13	<i>Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation OYN5 22kV Circuit Breaker</i>	85
14.1.14	<i>Portland (PLD) Zone Substation CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker</i>	86
14.1.15	<i>Robinvale (RVL) Zone Substation Transformer 1</i>	86
14.1.16	<i>Robinvale (RVL) Zone Substation Transformer 2</i>	87
14.1.17	<i>Warrnambool (WBL) Zone Substation Transformer 3</i>	88
14.2	GROUPS OF ASSETS	88
14.2.1	<i>Poles and towers</i>	88
14.2.2	<i>Pole top structures</i>	89
14.2.3	<i>Switchgear</i>	89
14.2.4	<i>Overhead services</i>	90
14.2.5	<i>Overhead conductor</i>	90
14.2.6	<i>Underground cable</i>	90
14.2.7	<i>Other underground assets</i>	91
14.2.8	<i>Distribution plant</i>	91
14.2.9	<i>Zone substation switchyard equipment</i>	92
14.2.10	<i>Protection and control room equipment and instrumentation</i>	92
14.3	PLANNED ASSET DE-RATINGS.....	93
14.4	COMMITTED PROJECTS.....	93
14.5	TIMING OF PROPOSED ASSET RETIREMENTS/ REPLACEMENTS AND DERATINGS	93
15	REGULATORY TESTS	95
15.1	CURRENT REGULATORY TESTS.....	95
15.2	FUTURE REGULATORY INVESTMENT TESTS.....	97

15.3	EXCLUDED PROJECTS.....	98
16	NETWORK PERFORMANCE	99
16.1	RELIABILITY MEASURES AND PERFORMANCE	99
16.1.1	<i>Corrective reliability action undertaken or planned</i>	<i>100</i>
16.2	QUALITY OF SUPPLY MEASURES AND STANDARDS.....	101
16.2.1	<i>Voltage.....</i>	<i>101</i>
16.2.2	<i>Performance of Low Voltage Network</i>	<i>104</i>
16.2.3	<i>Harmonics.....</i>	<i>104</i>
17	EMBEDDED GENERATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT	107
17.1	EMBEDDED GENERATION CONNECTIONS	107
17.2	NON-NETWORK OPTIONS AND ACTIONS	108
17.3	DEMAND SIDE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND REGISTER	108
18	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.....	110
18.1	SECURITY PROGRAM.....	110
18.2	CURRENCY	111
18.3	COMPLIANCE	111
18.4	INFRASTRUCTURE	112
18.5	CUSTOMER ENABLEMENT	113
18.6	BECOMING A MORE DIGITAL NETWORK	114
18.7	OTHER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INVESTMENTS	115
19	ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFITS	117
19.1	LIFE SUPPORT CUSTOMERS.....	117
19.2	NETWORK PLANNING AND DEMAND SIDE RESPONSE.....	117
19.3	NETWORK RELIABILITY	118
APPENDIX A	MAPS.....	120
A.1.	Northern area zone substation and sub-transmission lines	120
A.2.	Central area zone substations and sub-transmission lines	121
A.3.	Southern area zone substations and sub-transmission lines	122
APPENDIX B	MAPS WITH FORECAST SYSTEM LIMITATIONS AND ASSET TO BE RETIRED OR REPLACED	123
B.1.	Northern area map with forecast system limitations.....	123
B.2.	Central area map with forecast system limitations	124
B.3.	Southern area map with forecast system limitations	125
B.4.	Nothern area map with assets to be retired or replaced	126
B.5.	Central area map with assets to be retired or replaced.....	127
B.6.	Southern area map with assets to be retired or replaced.....	128
APPENDIX C	GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS	129
C.1.	Glossary	129
C.2.	Zone substation abbreviations	130
C.3.	Terminal station abbreviations	131
APPENDIX D	ASSET MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS.....	132

1 Overview

The Distribution Annual Planning Report (**DAPR**) provides an overview of the current and future changes that Powercor proposes to undertake on its network. It covers information relating to 2020 as well as the forward planning period of 2021 to 2025.

Powercor is a regulated Victorian electricity distribution business. It distributes electricity to more than 800,000 homes and businesses in central and western Victoria, as well as Melbourne's outer western suburbs. The network consists of 582,903 poles and over 75,552 kilometres of wires. Electricity is received via 140 sub transmission lines at 59 zone substations, where electricity is transformed from sub-transmission voltages to distribution voltages.

The report sets out the following information:

- forecasts, including capacity and load forecasts, at the zone substation, sub-transmission and primary distribution feeder level;
- system limitations, which includes limitations resulting from the forecast load exceeding capacity following an outage, or retirements and de-ratings of assets;
- projects that have been, or will be, assessed under the regulatory investment test; and
- other high level summary information to provide context to Powercor's planning processes and activities.

The DAPR provides a high-level description of the balance that Powercor will take into account between capacity, demand and replacement of its assets at each zone substation and sub-transmission line over the forecast period. This document should be read in conjunction with the System Limitation Reports and the Forecast Load Sheet. Transmission-distribution connection assets are addressed in a separate report.¹

Data presented in this report may indicate an emerging major constraint, where more detailed analysis of risks and options for remedial action by Powercor are required.

The DAPR also provides preliminary information on potential opportunities to prospective proponents of non-network solutions at zone substations, sub-transmission lines and primary distribution feeders where remedial action may be required. Providing this information to the market facilitates the efficient development of the network to best meet the needs of customers.

The DAPR is aligned with the requirements of clauses 5.13.2(b) and (c) of the National Electricity Rules (**NER**) and contains the detailed information set out in Schedule 5.8 of the NER. In addition, the DAPR contains information consistent with the requirements of section

¹ Transmission-distribution connection assets are discussed in the Transmission Connection Planning Report which is available on the Powercor website at <https://www.powercor.com.au/what-we-do/the-network/network-planning/>

3.5 of the Electricity Distribution Code, as published by the Essential Services Commission of Victoria.

1.1 Public consultation

Powercor intends to hold a public forum to discuss this DAPR in early 2021. All interested stakeholders are welcome to attend, including interested parties on Powercor's demand-side engagement register, and local councils.

Powercor invites written submissions from interested parties to offer alternative proposals to defer or avoid the proposed works associated with network constraints. All submissions should address the technical characteristics of non-network options provided in this DAPR and include information listed in the demand-side engagement strategy.

We also welcome feedback or suggestions for improvement on the structure or content presented in this year's DAPR or Systems Limitations Template.

All written submissions or enquiries should be directed to:

- DMInterestedParties@powercor.com.au

Alternatively, Powercor's postal address for enquiries and submissions is:

- Powercor
Attention: Head of Network Planning and Development
Locked Bag 14090
Melbourne VIC 8001

2 Background

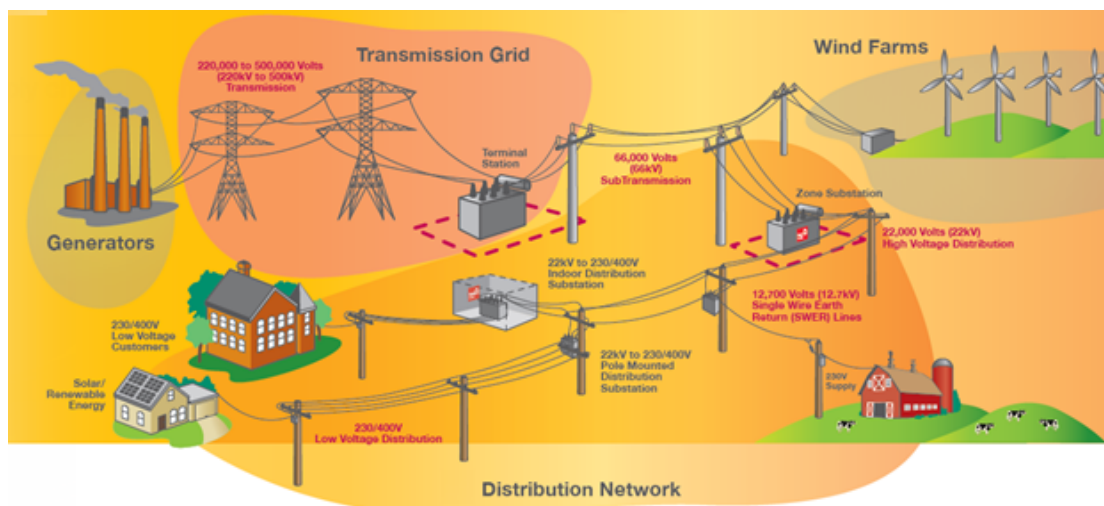
This chapter sets out background information on Powercor Australia Ltd (**Powercor**) and how it fits into the electricity supply chain.

2.1 Who we are

Powercor is a regulated Distribution Network Service Provider (**DNSP**) within Victoria. Powercor own the poles and wires which supply electricity to homes and businesses.

A high level picture of the electricity supply chain is shown in the diagram below.

Figure 2.1 The electricity supply chain



The distribution of electricity is one of four main stages in the supply of electricity to customers. The four main stages are:

- **Generation:** generation companies produce electricity from sources such as coal, wind or sun, and then compete to sell it in the wholesale National Electricity Market (**NEM**). The market is overseen by the Australian Energy Market Operator (**AEMO**), through the co-ordination of the interconnected electricity systems of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. It is recognised that a growing amount of generation is occurring at lower voltages including individual household photovoltaic arrays.
- **Transmission:** the transmission network transports electricity from generators at high voltage to five Victorian distribution networks. Victoria's transmission network also connects with the grids of New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia.
- **Distribution:** distributors such as Powercor convert electricity from the transmission network into lower voltages and deliver it to Victorian homes and businesses. The major

focus of distribution companies is developing and maintaining their networks to ensure a reliable supply of electricity is delivered to customers to the required quality of supply standards.

- **Retail:** the retail sector of the electricity market sells electricity and manages customer accounts. Retail companies issue customers' electricity bills, a portion of which includes regulated tariffs payable to transmission and distribution companies for transporting electricity along their respective networks.

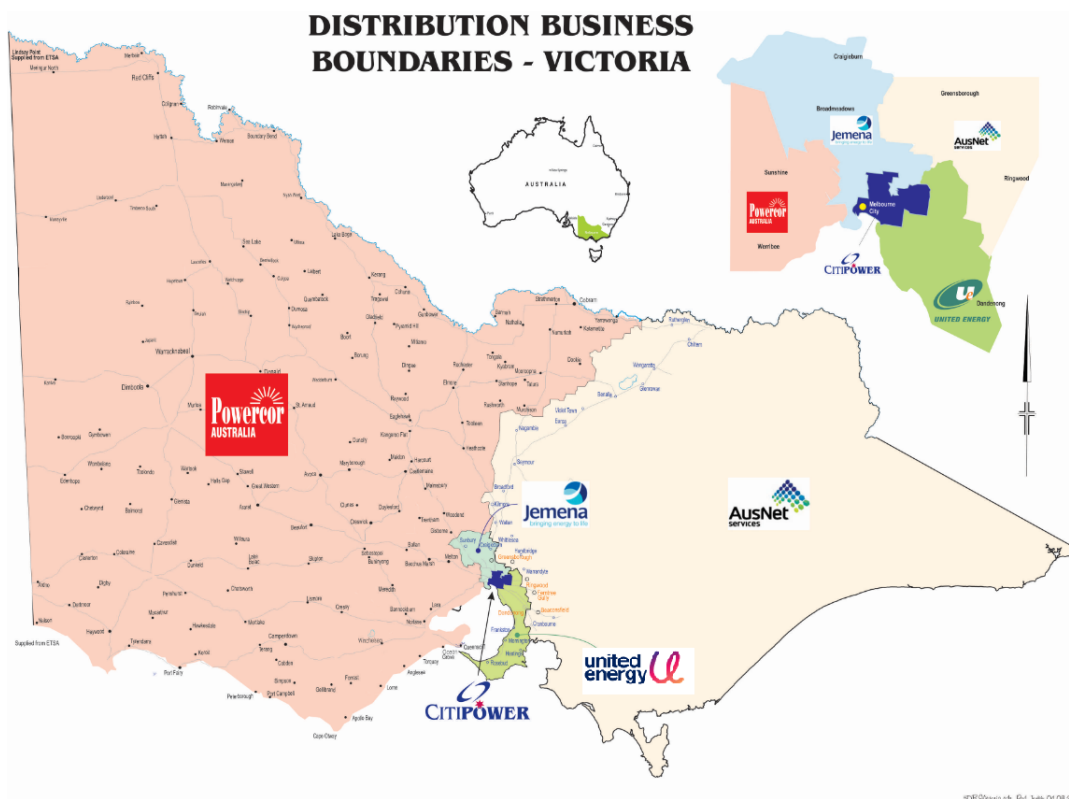
2.2 The five Victorian distributors

In the distribution stage of the supply chain, there are five businesses operating in Victoria. Each business owns and operates the electricity distribution network. Powercor is one of those distribution businesses.

The Powercor network provides electricity to customers in central and western Victoria, as well as Melbourne's outer western suburbs. Powercor supplies major regional centres including Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong, and provides electricity to some of Australia's most popular tourist destinations, such as the towns along the Great Ocean Road.

The coverage of Powercor, and its related entity CitiPower, is shown in the figure below.

Figure 2.2 Powercor and other Victorian distribution areas

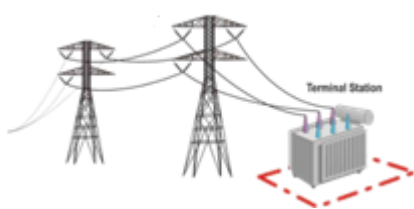


In Victoria, each DNSP has responsibility for planning the augmentation of their distribution network. In order to continue to provide efficient, secure and reliable supply to its customers, Powercor must plan augmentation and asset replacement of the network to match network

capacity to customer demand. The need for augmentation is largely driven by customer peak demand growth and geographic shifts of demand due to urban redevelopment.

2.3 Delivering electricity to customers

Power that is produced by large-scale generators is transmitted over the high voltage transmission network and is changed to a lower voltage before it can be used in the home or industry. This occurs in several stages, which are simplified below.

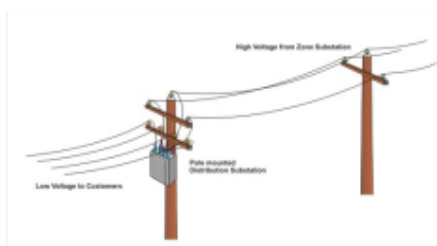


Firstly, the voltage of the electricity that is delivered to **terminal stations** is reduced by transformers. Typically in Victoria, most of the transmission lines operate at voltages of 500,000 volts (500 kilovolts or kV) or 220,000 volts (220kV). The transformer at the terminal station reduces the electricity voltage to 66kV. The Powercor network is supplied from the terminal stations.



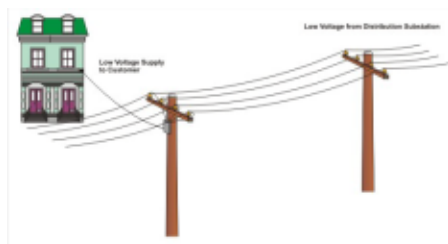
Second, Powercor distributes the electricity on the **sub-transmission system** which is made up of large concrete or wooden power poles and powerlines, or sometimes underground powerlines. The sub-transmission system transports electricity to Powercor's zone substations at 66kV.

Third, at the **zone substation** the electricity voltage is converted from 66kV to 22kV or 11kV. Electricity at this voltage can then be distributed on smaller, lighter power poles.



Fourth, **high voltage distribution lines** (or distribution feeders) transfer the electricity from the zone substations to Powercor's distribution substations.

Fifth, electricity is transformed to 400 / 230 volts at the **distribution substations** for supply to customers.



Finally, electricity is conveyed along the **low voltage distribution lines** to homes and businesses.

A growing amount of generation is occurring at lower voltages including individual customer level PV arrays.

2.4 Operating environment and asset statistics

Powercor delivers electricity to around 800,000 homes and businesses in a 145,651 square kilometre area, or around 5 customers per square kilometre.

Powercor's customer base comprises of large industrial and commercial customers through to small domestic and rural consumers. There are also a number of high voltage customer supplies and interconnection points for embedded generation such as wind farms and solar farms.

Powercor's electricity network comprises a sub-transmission network which consists of predominately overhead lines which operate at 66kV and a distribution network. The overall network consists of approximately 86 per cent overhead lines and 14 per cent underground cables that generally operate at 22kV. There is also some distribution network in Melbourne's western suburbs operating at a voltage of 11kV.

The sub-transmission network is supplied from a number of terminal stations which typically operate at a voltage of 220kV or greater. This transmission network, including the terminal stations, is owned and operated by AusNet Services and Transgrid.

The sub-transmission network nominally operates at 66kV and is generally configured in loops to maximise reliability, however some remote rural locations are supplied by radial 66kV lines.

The sub-transmission network supplies electricity to zone substations which then transform (step down) the voltage suitable for the distribution to the surrounding area.

The distribution network consists of both overhead and underground lines connected to substations, switchgear, and other equipment to provide effective protection and control.

Whilst the majority of the high voltage distribution system nominally operates at 22kV, there are notable exceptions:

- in remote and sparsely settled rural areas there is a substantial volume of Single Wire Earth Return (**SWER**) lines which operates at a nominal voltage of 12.7kV;
- in the western suburbs of Melbourne, there are three smaller areas where the high voltage distribution system operates at a nominal voltage of 11kV;
- in the far north west of the state, there a small system supplied from the South Australian network. This system operates at 33kV; and
- in the far south west of the state, there a small SWER system supplied from the South Australian network. This system operates at 19kV.

Distribution feeders are generally operated in a radial mode from their respective zone substation supply points. In urban areas, distribution feeders generally have inter-feeder tie points which can be reconfigured to provide for load transfers and other operational contingencies.

Powercor takes two supplies from the South Australian network at 33kV to supply the small townships of Nelson in the far south-west and at 19kV at Lindsay Point in the far north-west of the state. The Nelson supply is converted to 22kV at the state border.

The final supply to small consumers is provided through the low voltage distribution systems that nominally operate at 230 or 400 volts. These voltages are derived from “distribution substations” which are located throughout the distribution network and typically range in size from 5kVA to 2000kVA. Both overhead and underground low voltage reticulation, including service arrangements, complete the final connections to the low voltage consumer points of supply.

At the start of 2020, the Powercor network comprises approximately:

Table 2.1 Powercor network statistics

Item	Number / km
Poles	582,903
Overhead lines	75,552
Underground cables	13,577
Sub-transmission lines	140
Zone substation transformers	144
Distribution feeders	417
Distribution transformers	86,296

Error! Reference source not found. shows maps that indicate location of Powercor’s zone substation assets and the connected terminal stations on a geographical basis.

3 Factors Impacting Network

This chapter sets out the factors that may have a material impact on the Powercor network:

- demand: changes in demand causing thermal capacity constraints, such as that caused from population growth resulting in new residential customers connecting to the network, new or changed business requirements for electricity;
- fault levels: the increasing amount of embedded generation being directly connected to the Powercor network is increasing the overall fault levels on the network which is reaching its fault level capacity in certain areas;
- voltage levels: the long distance between the customer and the voltage regulating equipment means that lower voltage levels are observed on the Powercor network and need to be carefully managed;
- other system security requirements: improvements in system security for single transformer zone substation, radial lines or zone substations with banked switching configuration will be considered when an increase in demand is forecast;
- quality of supply to other network users: Powercor may carry out system studies on a case-by-case basis as part of the new customer connection process;
- ageing and potentially unreliable assets: Powercor utilises a Health Index as a guide to determining the condition and therefore risk of the assets; and
- solar enablement: the rapid uptake of distributed energy resources are driving voltage variations and reverse flow capacity constraints.

These factors are discussed in more detail below.

3.1 Demand

Changes in maximum demand on the network are driven by a range of factors. For example, this may include:

- population growth: increases in the number of residential customers connecting to the network;
- economic growth: changes in the demand from small, medium and large businesses and large industrial customers;
- prices: the price of electricity impacts the use of electricity;

- weather: the effect of temperature on demand largely due to temperature sensitive loads such as air-conditioners and heaters; and
- customer equipment and embedded generators: the equipment that sits behind the customer meter including televisions, solar panels and batteries (which may mask the real demand behind the meter) and causing capacity constraints, pool pumps, electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, etc.

Forecasting for demand is discussed later in this document.

3.2 Fault levels

A fault is an event where an abnormally high current is developed as a result of a short circuit somewhere in the network. A fault may involve one or more line phases and ground, or may occur between line phases only. In a ground/earth fault, charge flows into the earth or along a neutral or earth-return wire.

Powercor estimates the prospective fault current to ensure it is within allowable limits of the electrical equipment installed, and to select and set the protective devices that can detect a fault condition. Devices such as circuit breakers, automatic circuit reclosers, sectionalisers, and fuses can act to break the fault current to protect the electrical plant, and avoid significant and sustained outages as a result of plant damage.

Fault levels are determined according to a number of factors including:

- generation of all sizes;
- impedance of transmission and distribution network equipment;
- load including motors; and
- voltage

The following fault level limits are generally applied within Powercor:

Table 3.1 Fault level limits

Voltage	Fault limit (kilo Amps, kA)
66kV	21.9 kA
22kV	13.1 kA
11kV	18.4 kA
<1kV	50 kA

Where fault levels are forecast to exceed the allowable fault level limits listed above, then fault level mitigation projects are initiated. This may involve, for example, introducing extra impedance into the network or separating network components that contribute to the fault such as opening the bus-tie circuit breakers at constrained zone substations to divide the fault current path.

Fault level mitigation programs are becoming increasingly common on the Powercor network as the level of embedded generation being directly connected to the network increases. This is because of the increasing fault level contribution from generators which the network was not designed for when originally conceived.

3.3 Voltage levels

Voltage levels are important for the operation of all electrical equipment, including home appliances with electric motors or compressors such as washing machines and refrigerators, or farming and other industrial equipment. These appliances are manufactured to operate within certain voltage threshold ranges.

Electricity distributors are obligated to maintain customer voltages within specified thresholds, and these are further discussed in section 16.2. Similarly, manufacturers can only supply such appliances and equipment that operate within the Australian Standards. Supply voltage at levels outside these limits could affect the performance or cause damage to the equipment as well as industry processes.

Voltage levels are affected by a number of factors including:

- generation of electricity into the network;
- impedance of transmission and distribution network equipment;
- length of sub-transmission or distribution feeders;
- implementation of REFCLs;
- load; and
- capacitors in the network.

The long distance between the customer and the voltage regulating equipment e.g. transformers and regulators means that lower voltage levels are observed on the Powercor network and need to be carefully managed. Powercor is actively monitoring lines susceptible to voltage issues.

In addition, groups of solar photovoltaic generators are increasingly causing fluctuations in voltage levels in localised areas. Powercor is monitoring the voltages in these areas. Higher voltage levels caused by solar generation are a particular concern.

3.4 System security

For zone substations and sub-transmission lines, the Powercor network may contain:

- single transformer at a zone substation;
- radial sub-transmission lines; and
- banked configuration of the transformers.

The use of a single transformer or a radial sub-transmission line generally occurs in remote areas of the network, typically with low demand. Where increases in demand are expected at the zone substation or on the line, then Powercor will consider improving the security of supply by installing an additional transformer or line.

When major augmentation is planned at a zone substation, Powercor will consider improving the switching configuration such that supply can be maintained without any intermittent loss of supply in the event of a transformer outage. For example, this can be achieved by isolating the faulty transformer automatically. This configuration is referred to as full switching as opposed to banked.

3.5 Quality of supply to other network users

Where embedded generators or large industrial customers are seeking to connect to the network and the type of load is likely to result in changes to the quality of supply to other network users, Powercor may carry out system studies on a case-by-case basis as part of the new customer connection process.

3.6 Ageing and potentially unreliable assets

Powercor carries out routine maintenance on its assets to reduce the probability of plant failure, and ensure they are fit for operation.

Assets with a high Health Index are a priority for Powercor and these are further discussed below.

3.6.1 Health Index

Powercor uses the Condition Based Risk Management (**CBRM**) methodology to plan any required interventions to manage risks associated with the performance of major items of plant and equipment.

The model is an ageing algorithm that takes into account a range of inputs including:

- condition assessment data, such as transformer oil condition;
- environmental factors, such as whether the assets are located indoors or outdoors, or coastal areas; and
- operating factors, such as the load utilisation, frequency of use and load profiles that the asset is supplying.

These factors are combined to produce a Health Index for each asset in a range from 0 to 10, where 0 is a new asset and 10 represents end of life. The Health Index provides a means of comparing similar assets in terms of their calculated probability of failure. Powercor will closely monitor assets with a Health Index in the range 5 to 7 to determine options for intervention, including replacement or retirement, in the context of energy at risk. Interventions are planned when asset health index exceeds 5.5 and intervention prioritised when asset health index exceeds 7.

A Health Index profile gives an immediate appreciation of the condition of all assets in a group and an understanding of the future condition of the assets.

As part of the CBRM process, a consequence of failure of the asset is also calculated. This assesses the consequence to customers due to loss of supply. The loss of a large amount of load (in MW) to a large industrial customer or to a large number of residential customers will

indicate a high consequence of failure. This consequence of failure consists of four elements:

- network performance;
- safety;
- financial; and
- environment

The risk to Powercor is calculated by combining the probability of failure of the asset and the consequence of failure of the asset. CBRM is used to calculate how the risk will change in future years and determine the optimum timing for any intervention.

For the purposes of this DAPR, the Health Index of some assets has been provided where Powercor has assessed the risk to be sufficient to require intervention in the next five years.

3.7 Solar enablement

Distributed Energy Resources (particularly solar PV) connected to the network are creating voltage variations which are expected to significantly increase, in part due to penetration levels reaching a tipping point and a new Victorian Government policy subsidising solar PV for up to 650,000 households over 10 years.

In areas with a higher proportion of solar customers, solar PV exports are causing the localised network voltage to rise during daylight hours. This can affect the quality of electricity supply to all customers in the area, trip solar customers' solar PV systems (from export and in-home-use) and raise network voltages above the limits set by the Electricity Distribution Code (Code).

Household solar PV exports also have the potential to create capacity constraint concerns on the LV. This is due to the increasing solar PV penetration, increasing average solar PV system sizes (to a point that households' export capacity can exceed their load requirements) and the relatively low diversity of exports when compared to load diversity, for which the network was traditionally designed to accommodate.

Over the next 5 years, Powercor is implementing a 'Solar Enablement' program of works to limit these issues including:

- implementing a Dynamic Voltage Management System to vary system voltage based on feedback from AMI meters installed at each customer premise;
- undertaking remedial works such as phase rebalancing, distribution transformer tapping, distribution transformer replacement and undertaking conductor works and replacements;
- reviewing customers' inverter settings and compliance with contracts; and
- limiting/ constraining exports when network ratings are met and a solution is not yet available.

3.8 REFCLs

This section sets out Powercor's plans to install Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (**REFCLs**) in the network. The purpose of installing REFCLs is to provide safety benefits to the community through reduced risk of electrical assets contributing to starting a fire.

A REFCL is a network protection device, normally installed at a zone substation that can reduce the risk of a fallen powerline or a powerline indirectly in contact with the earth causing a fire-start. It is capable of detecting when a powerline falls to the ground and almost instantaneously reduces the voltage to near-zero on the fallen line.

Customers that are directly connected to Powercor's 22kV high voltage (**HV**) network may need to take action in response to Powercor's REFCL deployment program

For Powercor, the installation of REFCLs also ensures compliance with the amendments to the *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013* (Regulations) which were implemented in Victoria on 1 May 2016.

The Regulations require each polyphase electric line originating from 45 specified zone substations (22 of which are Powercor zone substations) to comply with performance standards specified in the Regulations. Schedule two of the Regulations assigns a number of 'points' to each of the specified zone substations. Powercor is required to ensure that:

- at 1 May 2019, the points set out in schedule two to the Regulations in relation to each zone substation upgraded, when totalled, were not less than 30;
- at 1 May 2021, the points set out in schedule two in relation to each zone substation upgraded, when totalled, are not less than 55; and
- from 1 May 2023, in the Powercor supply network, each polyphase electric line originating from every zone substation specified in schedule two has the required capacity.

3.8.1 Zone substations

In 2020, Powercor commissioned REFCLs at Ballarat North (BAN), Ballarat South (BAS), Bendigo (BGO) and Bendigo Terminal Station (BETS).

On 20 August 2018, the Essential Services Commission of Victoria (**ESCV**) amended the Distribution Code which had the impact of transferring responsibility from distributors to HV customers for hardening of the HV customer assets to withstand the higher REFCL voltages or isolating the connection from the network when a REFCL operates. For all zone substations where REFCLs will be commissioned from 2019 onwards (with the exception of Colac (CLC) where Powercor retains responsibility), HV customers will need to take action to:

- ensure that their assets are compatible with the operation of a REFCL; and
- complete any required works prior to the commissioning of the relevant Powercor REFCL zone substation.

The table below sets out the ongoing REFCL work to maintain compliance including the proposed upgrade and/or commissioning date.

Table 3.2 Commissioning year for ongoing REFCL work

Zone substation	Project description	Year
Colac (CLC)	New GFN	2021
Castlemaine (CMN)	New GFN	2023
Eaglehawk (EHK)	New transformer and GFN	2024
Gisborne (GSB)	New GFN	2024
Woodend (WND)	New transformer and GFN	2023
Bendigo (BETS)	Feeder rearrangement	2024
Bendigo (BGO)	Feeder rearrangement	2024
Winchelsea (WIN)	New transformer and GFN	2024
Ballarat West (BAW)	New zone substation with transformers and GFN	2026 ²

The table below sets out the proposed commissioning date for the planned installation of REFCLs over the next five years in the following substations.

Table 3.3 Commissioning year for REFCLs

Year	2021	2022
Zone substation	Koroit (KRT) Terang (TRG) Merbein (MBN) Stawell (STL)	Hamilton (HTN) Waurin Ponds (WPD) Torquay (TQY) Gheringhap (GHP)

Note that Powercor has brought forward the planned REFCL commissioning dates for Terang (**TRG**) zone substation to 2021, which will fall within the second tranche of the REFCL program. Geelong (**GL**) and Corio (**CRO**) zone substations have been removed from the program after an exemption was granted to build a new, complying zone substation west of Geelong. This substation is currently planned to be constructed at Gheringhap (**GHP**). Torquay (**TQY**) will be commissioned in conjunction with Waurin Ponds (**WPD**) as the capacitive size of the network has grown considerably since the REFCL legislation was introduced.

² Ballarat West is anticipated to be required by 2026 but there is still some uncertainty that may require the project sooner.

3.8.2 Other impacted areas of the network

The installation of a REFCL at a zone substation can impact other parts of the Powercor distribution network. Generally, the REFCL would only impact the 22kV HV feeders directly connected to the REFCL zone substation. During contingent events, however, the open points on the network may change resulting in feeders connected to non-REFCL zone substations being served from a REFCL zone substation and thus experiencing the higher voltages associated with the operation of a REFCL.

New or existing HV customers connected to the feeders listed below, which may experience a REFCL condition during contingent events, are also required to take action to:

- ensure that their assets are compatible with the operation of a REFCL; and
- complete any required works prior to the commissioning of the relevant Powercor REFCL zone substation.

Table 3.4 Other impacted areas of the network

Year	2021	2022
Feeders	• WBL004, WBL005, WBL006 (from KRT) • COB021 (from TRG) • MDA023, MDA032, MDA033, MDA034 (from MBN) • HSM001 (from STL)	• DDL023, GCY014, GL012, GL021, GLE012, GLE013 (from WPD) • CRO013, CRO022, GL014 (from GHP) • TQY011, TQY012, TQY021, TQY022, (from GHP)

Note that the Cobden 011, 012 feeders were hardened as part of Powercor's REFCL program for CDN. Any new HV customer assets connecting to this network will be required to be compatible with the operation of a REFCL.

4 Network Planning Standards

This chapter sets out the process by which Powercor identifies constraints in its network.

4.1 Approaches to planning standards

In general there are two different approaches to network planning.

Deterministic planning standards: this approach calls for zero interruptions to customer supply following any single outage of a network element, such as a transformer. In this scenario any failure or outage of individual network elements (known as the “N-1” condition) can be tolerated without customer impact due to sufficient resilience built into the distribution network. A strict use of this approach may lead to inefficient network investment as resilience is built into the network irrespective of the cost of the likely interruption to the network customers, or use of alternative options.

Probabilistic planning approach: the deterministic N-1 criterion is relaxed under this approach, and simulation studies are undertaken to assess the amount of energy that would not be supplied if an element of the network is out of service. As such, the consideration of energy not served may lead to the deferral of projects that would otherwise be undertaken using a deterministic approach. This is because:

- under a probabilistic approach, there are conditions under which all the load cannot be supplied with a network element out of service (hence the N-1 criterion is not met); however
- the actual load at risk may be very small when considering the probability of a forced outage of a particular element of the sub-transmission network.

In addition, the probabilistic approach assesses load at risk under system normal conditions (known as the “N” condition). This is where all assets are operating but load exceeds the total capacity. Contingency transfers may be used to mitigate load at risk in the interim period until an augmentation is completed.

4.2 Application of the probabilistic approach to planning

Powercor adopts a probabilistic approach to planning its zone substation and sub-transmission asset augmentations.

The probabilistic planning approach involves estimating the probability of an outage occurring within the peak loading season, and weighting the costs of such an occurrence by its probability, to assess:

-
- the expected cost that will be incurred if no action is taken to address an emerging constraint, and therefore
 - whether it is economic to augment the network capacity to reduce expected supply interruptions.

The quantity and value of energy at risk (which is discussed in section 6.1) is a critical parameter in assessing a prospective network investment or other action in response to an emerging constraint. Probabilistic network planning aims to ensure that an economic balance is struck between:

- the cost of providing additional network capacity to remove constraints; and
- the cost of having some exposure to loading levels beyond the network's capability.

In other words, recognising that very extreme loading conditions may occur for only a few hours in each year, it may be uneconomic to provide additional capacity to cover the possibility that an outage of an item of network plant may occur under conditions of extreme loading. The probabilistic approach requires expenditure to be justified with reference to the expected benefits of lower unserved energy.

This approach provides a reasonable estimate of the expected net present value to consumers of network augmentation for planning purposes. However, implicit in its use is acceptance of the risk that there may be circumstances (such as the loss of a transformer at a zone substation during a period of high demand) when the available network capacity will be insufficient to meet actual demand and significant load shedding could be required. The extent to which investment should be committed to mitigate that risk is ultimately a matter of judgment, having regard to:

- the results of studies of possible outcomes, and the inherent uncertainty of those outcomes;
- the potential costs and other impacts that may be associated with very low probability events, such as single or coincident transformer outages at times of peak demand, and catastrophic equipment failure leading to extended periods of plant non-availability; and
- the availability and technical feasibility of cost-effective contingency plans and other arrangements for management and mitigation of risk.

5 Forecasting Demand

This chapter sets out the methodology and assumptions for calculating historic and forecast levels of demand for each existing zone substation and sub-transmission system. These forecasts are used to identify potential future constraints in the network.

Please note that information relating to transmission-distribution connection points are provided in a separate report entitled the “Transmission Connection Planning Report” which is available on the Powercor website.³

5.1 Maximum demand forecasts

Powercor has set out its forecasts for maximum demand for each existing zone substation and sub-transmission system in the Forecast Load Sheet.

5.2 Zone substation methodology

This sub section sets out the methodology and information used to calculate the demand forecasts and related information that is referred to in the Forecast Load Sheet and System Limitation Reports.

5.2.1 Historical demand

Historical demand is calculated in Mega Volt Ampere (**MVA**) and is based on actual load and demand values recorded across the distribution network.

As peak demand in Powercor is very temperature and weather dependent, the actual peak demand values referred to in the Forecast Load Sheet are normalised for the purpose of forecasting, in accordance with the relevant weather conditions experienced across any given summer loading period. The correction enables the underlying peak demand growth year-by-year to be estimated, which is used in making future forecast and investment decisions.

The temperature correction seeks to ascertain the “50th percentile maximum demand”. The 50th percentile demand represents the peak demand on the basis of a normal season (summer and winter). For summer, it relates to a maximum average load temperature that will be exceeded, on average, once every two years. By definition therefore, actual demand in any given year has a 50 per cent probability of being higher than the 50th percentile demand forecast.⁴ The 50th percentile forecast can therefore be considered to be a forecast of the “most-likely” level of demand, bearing in mind that actual demand will vary depending

³ <https://www.powercor.com.au/what-we-do/the-network/network-planning/>

⁴ Consequently there is also a 50% probability that demand will not reach forecast.

on temperature and other factors. It is often referred to as 50 per cent probability of exceedance (**PoE**).

5.2.2 Forecast demand

Historical demand values taking into account local generation inputs are trended forward and added to known and predicted loads that are to be connected to the network. This includes taking into account the number of customer connections and the calculated total output of known embedded generating units.

Powercor has taken into account information collected from across the business relating to the load requirements of our customers, and the timing of those loads. This includes population growth and economic factors as well as information on the estimated load requirements for planned, committed and developments under-construction across the Powercor service area.

These bottom-up forecasts for demand have been reconciled with top-down independent econometric forecasts for Powercor as a whole.

These forecasts are referred to in the Forecast Load Sheet.

5.2.3 Definitions for zone substation forecast tables

The Forecast Load Sheet refers to other statistics of relevance to each zone substation, including:

- **Nameplate rating:** this provides the maximum capacity of the zone substation according to the equipment in place;
- **Cyclic N-1 rating:** this assumes that the load follows a daily pattern and is calculated using load curves appropriate to the season and assuming the outage of one transformer. This is also known as the “firm” rating;
- **Hours load is $\geq$ 95% of maximum demand (MD):** based on at least the most recent 12 months of data, assesses the load duration curve and the total hours during the year that the load is greater than or equal to 95 per cent of maximum demand;
- **Station power factor at maximum demand (MD):** based on the most recent maximum demand achieved in a season at the zone substation, this is a measure of how effectively the current is being converted into output and is also a good indicator of the effect of the load current on the efficiency of the supply system. It is calculated as a ratio of real power and apparent power and is used to inform load forecasts. A power factor of:
 - less than one: indicates a lagging or leading current in the supply system which may need correction, such as by increasing or reducing capacitors at the zone substation;
 - one: efficient loading of the zone substation;
- **Load transfers:** forecasts the available capacity of adjacent zone substations and feeder connections to take load away from the zone substation in emergency situations; and

-
- **Generation capacity:** calculates the total capacity of all embedded generation units that have been connected to the zone substation at the date of this report. Summation of generation above and below 1MW is provided.

5.3 Sub-transmission line methodology

This section sets out the methodology for calculating the historical and forecast maximum demands for the sub-transmission lines.

5.3.1 Historical demand

The sub-transmission line historical N-1 maximum demand loads for different line configurations are determined using a power flow analysis tool called Power System Simulator for Engineering (**PSS/E**).

The tool models the sub-transmission line from the terminal station to the zone substation to determine the theoretical N-1 maximum demand, by utilising historical actual loads and assessing:

- system impedances;
- transformer tapping ratios, which are used to regulate the transformer voltages;
- capacitor banks; and
- other technical factors relevant to the operation of the system.

The historical maximum demand data for the relevant zone substations is applied to the load flow analysis to enable calculation of the theoretical N-1 maximum demand of the sub-transmission line.

The zone substation forecast maximum demands are diversified to the expected zone substation loads at the time of the respective sub-transmission loop/ line maximum demand. Historical diversity factors are derived and applied.

The data is used to assess the maximum demand in the worst case “N-1” conditions. This is for a single contingency condition where there is the loss of an element in the power system, in particular the loss of another associated sub-transmission line. For a zone substation the load is identical whether the zone substation is operating under N or N-1 (loss of a transformer). Therefore the N-1 cyclic rating is used to compare against the load forecast. However for the loss of a sub-transmission line, other associated lines are loaded more heavily so it is appropriate to consider the N-1 condition for the forecast and compare to the line rating.

5.3.2 Forecast demand

Similar to the sub-transmission line historical maximum demand loads, bottom-up forecasts for maximum demand are predicted utilising a powerflow analysis tool, PSS/E for different line configurations.

The present sub-transmission system is modelled from the terminal stations to the zone substations, taking into account system impedances, transformer tapping ratios, voltage settings, capacitor banks and other relevant technical factors.

The reconciled maximum demand forecasts at each zone substation are used in calculating the maximum demand forecasts for the sub-transmission lines. As discussed in section 5.2 above, the bottom-up forecasts for demand at each zone substation have been reconciled with top-down independent econometric forecasts.

The zone substation forecast maximum demands are diversified based on the historical diversity factors mentioned above.

The data is used to forecast the maximum demand under “N-1” conditions. These forecasts are referred to in the Forecast Load Sheet.

5.3.3 Definitions for sub-transmission line forecast tables

The Forecast Load Sheet refers to other statistics of relevance to each sub-transmission line, including:

- **Line rating:** this provides the maximum capacity of the sub-transmission line as measured by its current and expressed in MVA;
- **Hours load is $\geq$ 95% of maximum demand (MD):** based on at least the most recent 12 months of data, assesses the load duration curve and the total hours during the year that the load is greater than or equal to 95 per cent of maximum demand;
- **Power factor at maximum demand (MD):** based on historical data, is a measure of how effectively the current is being converted into output and is also a good indicator of the effect of the load current on the efficiency of the supply system. It is calculated as a ratio of real power and apparent power and is used to inform load forecasts. A power factor of:
 - less than one: indicates a lagging or leading current in the supply system which may need correction, such as by increasing or reducing capacitors at the zone substation;
 - one: efficient loading of the zone substation.
- **Load transfers:** forecasts the available capacity of alternative sub-transmission lines that can carry electricity to the zone substation in emergency situations; and
- **Generation capacity:** calculates the total capacity of all embedded generation that have been directly connected to the sub-transmission line at the date of this report.

5.4 Primary distribution feeders

This section sets out the methodology for calculating the forecast maximum demands for the primary distribution feeders.

5.4.1 Forecast demand

Primary distribution feeder maximum demand forecasts are calculated using a similar methodology to our zone substation forecasts. The historical feeder demand values are trended forward using the underlying feeder growth rate including known or predicted loads that are forecast for connection.

Temperature correction and top down reconciliation occurs on the feeder and zone substation forecasts and is therefore inherent in the sub-transmission forecasts.

6 Approach to Risk Assessment

This chapter outlines the high level process by which Powercor calculates the risk associated with the expected balance between capacity and demand over the forecast period for zone substations and sub-transmission lines.

This process provides a means of identifying those stations or lines where more detailed analyses of risks and options for remedial action are required.

6.1 Energy at risk

As discussed in section 4.1, risk-based deterministic network planning aims to strike an economic balance between:

- the cost of providing additional network capacity to remove any constraints; and
- the potential cost of having some exposure to loading levels beyond the network's firm capability.

A key element of this assessment for each zone substation and sub-transmission line is "energy at risk", which is an estimate of the amount of energy that would not be supplied if one transformer or a sub-transmission line was out of service during the critical loading period(s).

For zone substations, **energy at risk** is defined as, the amount of energy that would not be supplied from a zone substation if a major outage⁵ of a transformer occurs at that station in that particular year, the outage has a mean duration of 2.6 months during the peak load period and no other mitigation action is taken.

This statistic provides an indication of magnitude of loss of load that would arise in the unlikely event of a major outage of a transformer without taking into account planned augmentation or operational action, such as load transfers to other supply points, to mitigate the impact of the outage.

For sub-transmission lines, the same definition applies however, the mean duration of an outage due to a significant failure is 8 hours for overhead sub-transmission lines and 1 week for underground sub-transmission lines.

Estimates of energy at risk are based on the 50th percentile demand forecasts, which were discussed in sections 5.2 and 5.3.

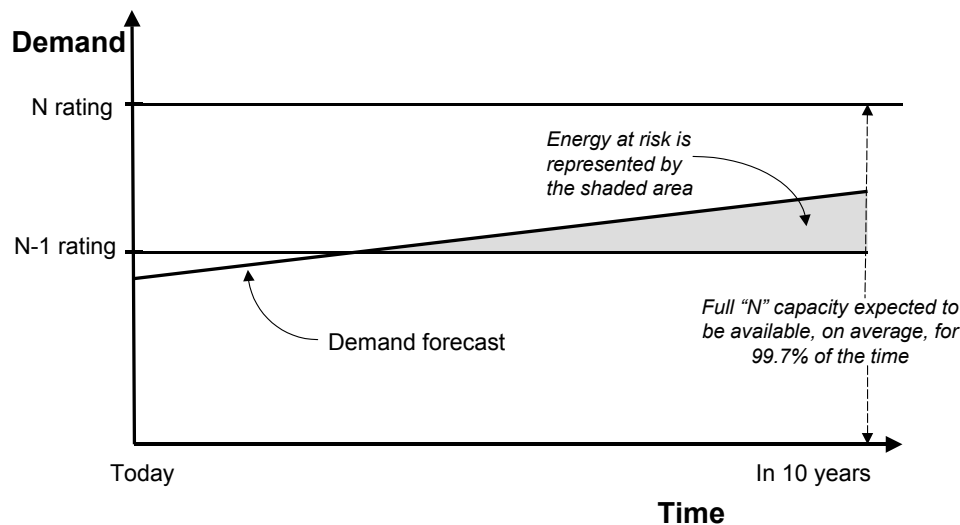
⁵ The term 'Major Outage' refers to an outage that has a duration of 2.6 months, typically due to a significant failure within the transformer.

6.2 Interpreting “energy at risk”

As noted above, “energy at risk” is an estimate of the amount of energy that would not be supplied if one transformer or sub-transmission line was out of service during the peak loading period(s).

The capability of a zone substation with one transformer out of service is referred to as its “N minus 1” rating. The capability of the station with all transformers in service is referred to as its “N” rating. The relationship between the N and N-1 ratings of a station and the energy at risk is depicted in Figure 6.1 below:

Figure 6.1 Relationship between N, N-1 rating and energy at risk



Note that:

- under normal operating conditions, there will typically be more than adequate zone substation capacity to supply all demand; and
- the risk of prolonged outages of a zone substation transformer leading to load interruption is typically very low.
- The capability of a sub-transmission line network with one line out of service is referred to as the (N-1) condition for that sub-transmission network.
- under normal operating conditions, there will typically be more than adequate line capacity to supply all demand; and
- the risk of prolonged outages of a sub-transmission line leading to load interruption is typically very low and is dependent upon the length of line exposed and the environment in which the line operates.

In estimating the expected cost of plant outages, this report considers the first order contingency condition (“N-1”) only.

6.3 Valuing supply reliability from the customer's perspective

For large augmentation or replacement projects over \$6 million that are subject to a Regulatory Investment Test for Distribution (**RIT-D**), Powercor will undertake a detailed assessment process to determine the most efficient solution.

In order to determine the economically optimal level and configuration of distribution capacity (and hence the supply reliability that will be delivered to customers), it is necessary to place a value on supply reliability from the customer's perspective.

Estimating the marginal value to customers of reliability is inherently difficult, and ultimately requires the application of some judgement. Nonetheless, there is information available (principally, surveys designed to estimate the costs faced by consumers as a result of electricity supply interruptions) that provides a guide as to the likely value.

A rule change made in July 2018 in the National Electricity Rules gave the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**) the responsibility to determine the values different customers place on having a reliable electricity supply. The AER subsequently developed an updated methodology for deriving Value of Customer Reliability (**VCR**) values and published new VCRs in December 2019. The applicable United Energy VCR values from this publication are as per Table 6.1 below:

Table 6.2 Values of customer reliability

Sector	VCR for 2020 (\$/kWh)
Residential	\$21.43
Commercial	\$44.52
Agricultural	\$37.87
Industrial (<10MVA)	\$63.79

These values are multiplied by the relative weighting of each sector at the zone substation or for the sub-transmission line, and a composite single value of customer reliability is estimated.

This is used to calculate the economic benefit of undertaking an augmentation, and where the net present value of the benefits outweighs the costs, and is superior to other options, Powercor will proceed with the works.

Powercor notes that there has been a reduction in the VCR estimates for the residential, commercial and agricultural sectors while a significant increase for the industrial sector compared to the results of the 2019 VCR study, which was published in AEMO's 2019 Application Guide.

From a planning perspective, it is appropriate for Powercor to have regard to the latest available VCR estimates. It is also important to recognise, however, that all methods for estimating VCR are prone to error and uncertainty, as illustrated by the wide differences between:

-
- AEMO's VCR estimate for 2013 of \$63 per kWh, which was based on the 2007/08 VENCORP study⁶;
 - Oakley Greenwood's 2012 estimate of the New South Wales VCR⁷, of \$95 per kWh; and
 - AER's latest Victorian VCR⁸ estimate of \$40.73 per kWh.

The wide range of VCR estimates produced by these three studies is likely to reflect estimation errors and methodological differences between the studies, rather than changes in the actual value that customers place on reliability. Moreover, the magnitude of the reduction in the AEMO's VCR estimates since 2013 raises concerns that the investment decisions signalled by applying the current VCR estimate may fail to meet customers' reasonable expectations of supply reliability.

⁶ See section 2.4 of the 2013 Transmission Connection Planning Report.

⁷ AEMO, Value of Customer Reliability Review Appendices, November 2014.

⁸ AER, Values of Customer Reliability, Final Report on VCR Values, December 2019.

7 Zone Substations Review

This chapter reviews the zone substations where further investigation into the balance between capacity and demand over the next five years is warranted, taking into account the:

- forecasts for maximum demand to 2024; and
- summer and winter cyclic N-1 ratings for each zone substation.

Where the zone substations are forecast to operate with maximum demands greater than 5 per cent above their firm summer or winter rating during 2020, then this section assesses the energy at risk for those assets.

If the energy at risk assessment is material, then Powercor sets out possible options to address the system limitations. Powercor may employ the use of contingency load transfers to mitigate the system limitations although this will not always address the entire load at risk at times of maximum demand. At other times of lower load the available transfers may be greater. As a result, the use of load transfers under contingency situations may imply a short interruption of supply for customers to protect network elements from damage and enable all available load transfers to take place.

Non-network providers may wish to review the limitations and consider whether alternative solutions to those set out in the analysis may be suitable. Solutions may also address sub-transmission constraints at the same time.

Powercor notes that all other zone substations that are not specifically mentioned below either have loadings below the relevant rating or the loading above the relevant rating is minimal and can be addressed using load transfer capability via the distribution network to adjacent zone substations. In these cases, all customers can be supplied following the failure or outage of an individual network element.

Finally, zone substations that are proposed to be commissioned during the forward planning period are also discussed.

7.1 Zone substations with forecast system limitations overview

Using the analysis undertaken below in section 7.2, Powercor proposes to augment the zone substations listed in the table below to address system limitations during the forward planning period. Powercor will investigate combining augmentation and asset replacement projects where net economic benefits are feasible.

Table 7.1 Proposed zone substation augmentations

Zone substation	Description	Direct cost estimate (\$ millions)				
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BAW	New REFCL Zone Substation subtransmission lines and HV feeders					X ⁹
BMH	BMH ZSS new transformer, circuit breakers, 66kV/22kV works and control room		1.1	2.3	2.8	1.2
CMN	New REFCL			2.7		
CLC	New REFCL	2.6				
EHK	New transformer and REFCL				3.7	3.7
GCY	New transformer and bus work					2.3
GHP	New REFCL Zone Substation, subtransmission lines and HV feeders	2.1	50.2			
GSB	New REFCL			1.5	1.5	
TNA	TNA 3rd transformer	2	0.6			
TQY	New REFCL Zone Substation subtransmission lines and HV feeders	18.3	34.9	17.3		
TRT	New zone substation subtransmission lines and HV feeders		0.1	2.2	7.2	10.3
WIN	New transformer and REFCL		8.3			
WMN	Augment No1 transformer			0.1	1.2	1.1

The excel based detailed system limitation reports can be found at the link below by searching for zone substation system limitation report:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/UaPnYl6yeV>

The options and analysis is undertaken below.

⁹ Ballarat West is anticipated to be required by 2026 but there is still some uncertainty that may require the project sooner.

7.2 Zone substations with forecast system limitations

7.2.1 Altona (AL) zone substation

The Altona (AL) zone substation is served by sub-transmission lines from the Brooklyn Terminal Station (BLTS) and Altona Terminal Station (ATS). It supplies the areas of Altona and Altona North, including Kororoit Creek Road.

Currently, the AL zone substation is comprised of a single 20/30 MVA 66/11kV transformer supplying the 11kV buses. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the Forecast Load Sheet.

Powercor estimate for 2021 maximum demand is forecast to be 20.1 MVA in summer 2020/21; which is well within the existing transformer cyclic capacity of 34.2 MVA.

For an outage of the single transformer at AL, Powercor will utilise its 11kV automatic changeover system to the adjacent Altona Chemical (AC) zone substation that is comprised of two 66/11kV transformer units. This arrangement will automatically transfer all AL zone substation 11kV loads to AC zone substation in case of any transformer outage at AL, thus having no residual load at risk.

7.2.2 Bendigo (BGO) zone substation

The zone substation in Bendigo (**BGO**) is served by sub-transmission lines from the Bendigo terminal station (**BETS**). It supplies the City of Bendigo and the rural area to the east.

Currently, the BGO zone substation is comprised of two 20/27/33MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 12.5 MVA of load at risk and for 75 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at BGO. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at BGO zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Eaglehawk (**EHK**) and BETS 22kV up to a maximum capacity of 21.5MVA;
- install a new 25/33MVA third transformer at BGO zone substation for an estimated cost of \$4.9 million;

Powercor's preferred option is to establish a new transformer at BGO. However given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.3 Bacchus (BMH) Marsh zone substation

The zone substation in Bacchus Marsh (**BMH**) is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Brooklyn terminal station (**BLTS**) and Ballarat terminal station (**BATS**). This station supplies the domestic, commercial, industrial and farming areas of Bacchus Marsh, Balliang and surrounding areas along the Western Freeway.

Currently, the BMH zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 13.4 MVA of load at risk and for 432 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at BMH. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at BMH zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Melton (**MLN**) and Ballarat North (**BAN**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 3.1MVA;
- Install a new 25/33MVA third transformer and complete associated station work at BMH zone substation for an estimated cost of \$7.4 million;

Powercor's preferred option is to install a new transformer in 2024. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

A demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 12.1MW at this zone substation would defer the need for this capital investment by one year in 2024.

7.2.4 Cohuna (CHA) zone substation

The zone substation in Cohuna (**CHA**) is served from sub-transmission lines from Kerang terminal station (**KGTS**). It supplies the domestic and commercial area of Cohuna extending into surrounding rural areas.

Currently, the HSM zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 0.9 MVA of load at risk and for 6 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at CHA. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the CHA substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- augment capacity by replacing the 22 kV transformer disconnect switches at CHA for an estimated cost of \$0.1 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to augment capacity at CHA by replacing the 22 kV transformer disconnect switches. However given that the probability weighted value of

energy at risk is not sufficient to justify augmentation, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.5 Charam (CHM) zone substation

The Charam (CHM) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Horsham terminal station (HOTS). It supplies Edenhope and surrounding areas.

Currently, the CHM zone substation is comprised of one 25/33MVA transformer operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the Forecast Load Sheet.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 2.6 MVA of load at risk and for 8760 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of the one transformer at CHM. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the CHM substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via temporary conversion of the HOTS-CHM 66kV sub-transmission to 22kV and links to adjacent HSM zone substation up to a maximum transfer capacity of 2MVA;
- install a new 25/33 MVA second transformer at CHM zone substation for an estimated cost of \$6.0 million;

Powercor's preferred option for an outage of the single transformer per above, is to utilise contingency load transfers to mitigate the load at risk during the forecast period.

7.2.6 Cobram East (CME) zone substation

The zone substation in Cobram East (**CME**) is served by a sub-transmission line from the Numurkah zone substation (**NKA**). It supplies the domestic and commercial area of Cobram and Yarrawonga, extending into surrounding rural areas.

Currently, the CME zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 6.9 MVA of load at risk and for 38 hours it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of a transformer at CME. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of the 10/13.5 MVA transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at substation CME, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Contingency plan to shed load and install portable emergency generation;
- Augment capacity by replacing two 10/13.5 MVA transformers, each with a 25/33 MVA transformer, at an estimated cost of \$5 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to augment capacity at CME by replacing two 10/13.5 MVA transformers, each with a 25/33 MVA transformer. However, given that the probability weighted value of energy at risk is not sufficient to justify augmentation, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of load shedding and portable emergency generation will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.7 Cobden (COB) zone substation

The zone substation in Cobden (COB) is served by sub-transmission lines from Terang terminal station (TGTS). It supplies the Camperdown / Cobden areas.

Currently, the COB zone substation is comprised of one 10/16MVA transformer and a 10MVA transformer operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 0.9 MVA of load at risk and for 8 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at COB. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the COB substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Camperdown (CDN) and Terang (TRG) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 4.2MVA;
- install high capacity fans to increase the No.2 transformer cyclic rating for an estimated cost of \$0.3 million. Fans will improve oil cooling by an increase in airflow through the radiators.

Powercor's preferred option is to install fans on the No.2 transformer at COB. However given that the actual load and the probability weighted value of energy at risk is low, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the load at risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.8 Drysdale (DDL) zone substation

The zone substation in Drysdale (DDL) is served by sub-transmission lines from Geelong terminal station (GTS). It supplies the Bellarine Peninsula and coastal towns of Queenscliff, Point Lonsdale, Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads.

Currently, the DDL zone substation is comprised of two 20/27/33MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 31.0 MVA of load at risk for 67 hours of the year it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at DDL. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the DDL substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Geelong East (**GLE**) and Waurn Ponds (**WPD**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 6.1 MVA;
- permanently transfer load away from DDL to GLE by constructing a new feeder at GLE for an estimated cost of \$2.5 million;
- augment capacity by installing an additional 66/22kV transformer and 22kV bus at DDL, for an estimated cost of \$6.0 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to permanently transfer load away from DDL to GLE by constructing a new feeder at GLE ZSS. Therefore a demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 30.9MW at this zone substation would defer the need for this capital investment by one year in 2025.

7.2.9 Eaglehawk (EHK) zone substation

The zone substation in Eaglehawk (**EHK**) is served by sub-transmission lines from the Bendigo terminal station (**BETS**). It supplies Eaglehawk, Bridgewater, Inglewood, the northern part of Bendigo and the surrounding rural areas north of Bendigo.

Currently, the EHK zone substation is comprised of two 20/27MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 23.1 MVA of load at risk and for 427 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at EHK. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at EHK zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Bendigo zone substation (**BGO**) and Bendigo terminal station 22kV (**BETS 22kV**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 15MVA;
- install a new 25/33MVA third transformer at EHK zone substation for an estimated cost of \$4.5 million.
- It is expected that it will be most efficient to install the new transformer at the same time as the next GFN at EHK as the third GFN will require the installation of the new transformer. The total value of installing the GFN and transformer is an estimated cost of \$7.4 million

Powercor's preferred option is to install a new transformer and GFN at EHK by 2025. It is not expected that a demand management solution could defer this project due to the constraint imposed being related to charging currents. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.10 Geelong City (GCY) zone substation

The zone substation in Geelong City (**GCY**) is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Geelong terminal station (**GTS**). It supplies the domestic and commercial area of Geelong central business district and surrounding east and southern suburban areas.

Currently, the GCY zone substation is comprised of two 20/27/33MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 16.8 MVA of load at risk for 107 hours of the year where it would be unable to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at GCY. That is, it would be unable to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the GCY substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Geelong (**GL**), Geelong East (**GLE**) and Waurin Ponds (**WPD**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 17.5 MVA;
- augment capacity by installing an additional 66/22kV transformer at GCY (and complete other associated station works) for an estimated cost of \$6.0 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to install an additional 25/33MVA transformer and complete other station upgrade works at GCY, however given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low, this project is not expected to be required until the summer of 2026/27. Consequently, Powercor is expecting to commence a project to address this constraint in 2025. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

7.2.11 Geelong (GL) zone substation

The zone substation in Geelong (**GL**) is served by sub-transmission lines from the Geelong terminal station (**GTS**). It supplies the domestic and commercial area of Geelong and extends into the surrounding north and western rural towns of Bannockburn, Lethbridge and Meredith.

Currently, the GL zone substation is comprised of two 20/40MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 17.0 MVA of load at risk for 139 hours of the year where it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at GL. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the GL substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Geelong B (**GB**), Geelong City (**GCY**) and Waurin Ponds (**WPD**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 7.5MVA.

- augment capacity by upgrading the existing transformer circuit breakers at GL zone for an estimated cost of \$0.84 million.
- augment capacity by installing an additional 66/22kV transformer at GL for an estimated cost of \$6 million.
- As part of the establishment of Gheringhap (GHP) substation, load will be transferred from GL to GHP. GHP will be established in 2022 as part of Powercor's REFCL compliance requirements.

Powercor's preferred option is to transfer 24MVA of load to the GHP substation when it is established in 2022. In the interim contingency transfers will be used to manage the risk. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.12 Horsham (HSM) zone substation

The zone substation in Horsham (**HSM**) is served by sub-transmission lines from Horsham terminal station (**HOTS**). It supplies the city of Horsham and surrounding townships of Dimboola, Warracknabeal, Minyip, Murtoa and parts of the northern Grampians..

Currently, the HSM zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 6.3 MVA of load at risk for 23 hours of the year it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at HSM. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the HSM substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Charam (CHM), Stawell (STL) and Nhill (NHL) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 4.0MVA;
- augment capacity by replacing two of the existing 10/13.5MVA transformers with 25/33MVA transformers at HSM at an estimated cost of \$7 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to augment capacity by replacing two of the existing transformers with new 25/33MVA units at HSM. However given that the probability weighted value of energy at risk is not sufficient to justify augmentation; this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.13 Koroit (KRT) zone substation

The zone substation in Koroit (**KRT**) is served by sub-transmission lines from Terang terminal station (**TGTS**). It supplies the Koroit area and areas to the west of Warrnambool.

Currently, the KRT zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 4.2 MVA of load at risk for 45 hours of the year it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at KRT. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the KRT substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Warrnambool (**WBL**) and Hamilton (**HTN**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 10.0 MVA;
- augment capacity by replacing two of the existing 10/13.5MVA transformers with 25/33MVA transformers at HSM at an estimated cost of \$7 million.

Powercor preferred option is to use the contingency transfers.

Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

7.2.14 Laverton (LV) zone substation

The Laverton (**LV**) zone substation is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Altona West terminal station (**ATS**). LV supplies the domestic and commercial area of Laverton extending into surrounding urban areas of Altona Meadows, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing and Point Cook.

Currently, the LV zone substation is comprised of two 25/33MVA transformers and one 20/33MVA transformer operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 25.5 MVA of load at risk and for 38 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at LV. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the LV zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the adjacent zone substations of Laverton (**LV**), Werribee (**WBE**), and Truganina (**TNA**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 3.2 MVA in 2020/21
- Augment capacity by installing a third 25/33MVA transformer at TNA and permanently transfer load away from LV to TNA for an estimated cost of \$1.2 million for the new 22kV feeder and \$3 million for the new transformer.

Powercor's preferred option is to install a third transformer and new 22kV feeder at TNA in 2021. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of

contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

This project is driven by the overall load at risk at LV, WBE and TNA. Therefore a demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 11MW across these zone substations would defer the need for this capital investment by one year in 2021.

7.2.15 Laverton North 11kV (LVN11) zone substation

The Laverton North (**LVN**) zone substation is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Altona West terminal station (**ATS**) and the Brooklyn terminal station (**BLTS**).

Currently, the LVN zone substation is comprised of three 33MVA 66/22kV (referred to as **LVN22** zone substation), as well as a single 20/30MVA 66/11kV transformer (referred to as **LVN11** zone substation) supplying an industrial customer at high voltage (11kV). There is no other 11kV customer connected through this transformer. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the Forecast Load Sheet.

Powercor estimates that in 2021 maximum demand is forecast to be 12.9MVA in summer 2021/22; which is well within the existing transformer cyclic capacity of 32.5MVA.

For the loss of the single transformer, the customer's automatic changeover system will transfer the critical load to a back-up 22/11kV transformer connected to the 22kV LVN network, which is required as part of the customer connection agreement.

7.2.16 Merbein (MBN) zone substation

The zone substation in Merbein (**MBN**) is served from sub-transmission lines from Red Cliffs terminal station (**RCTS**). It supplies along the Murray River between Mildura and Lake Cullulleraine.

Currently, the MBN zone substation is comprised of two 10/13 MVA transformers and one 25/33MVA transformer operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 11.5 MVA of load at risk and for 126 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at MBN. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the MBN substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent Mildura zone substation (**MDA**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 11.5 MVA;
- augment capacity by installing a third 25/33MVA transformer at nearby Mildura Zone substation (**MDA**) for an estimated cost of \$4.6 million and permanently transfer load to MDA.

Powercor's preferred option is to install a new 25/33MVA transformer at MDA. However given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the load at risk in the interim period.

Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.17 Mildura (MDA) zone substation

The zone substation in Mildura (**MDA**) is served from sub-transmission lines from Red Cliffs terminal station (**RCTS**). It supplies the city of Mildura, the town of Irymple and a small irrigation area.

Currently, the MDA zone substation is comprised of two 20/33MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 12.4 MVA of load at risk and for 111 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at MDA. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the MDA substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent Merbein zone substation (**MBN**) and Red Cliffs terminal station (**RCTS 22kV**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 15.3MVA;
- augment capacity by installing a third 25/33MVA transformer for an estimated cost of \$4.6 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to install a new 25/33MVA transformer at MDA. However given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the load at risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.18 Mooroopna (MNA) zone substation

The zone substation in Mooroopna (**MNA**) is served by a sub-transmission line from the Shepparton terminal station (**SHTS**) and a Subtransmission line from Shepparton zone substation (**STN**). It supplies the domestic and commercial area of Mooroopna and Tatura, extending into surrounding rural areas.

Currently, the MNA zone substation is comprised of two 20/27/33 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 9.0 MVA of load at risk and for 83 hours it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of a transformer at MNA. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a 20/27/33 MVA transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at substation MNA, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent zone substation of Shepparton (**STN**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 9.3 MVA;
- Augment capacity by installing a third 25/33 MVA transformers, at an estimated cost of \$3 million.
- Commission a new zone substation at Tatura (**TAT**) with two 25/33 MVA transformers and transfer load from MNA to TAT, at an estimated cost of \$10 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to commission a new zone substation at Tatura (**TAT**) with two 25/33 MVA transformers. However given that the probability weighted value of energy at risk is not sufficient to justify augmentation, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.19 Maryborough (MRO) zone substation

The zone substation in Maryborough (**MRO**) is served by sub-transmission lines from the Bendigo terminal station (**BETS**). It supplies Maryborough, Dunolly and the surrounding rural areas.

Currently, the MRO zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 5 MVA of load at risk and for 53 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at MRO. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at MRO zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substation of Castlemaine (**CMN**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 3.7MVA;
- install a new 10/13.5MVA third transformer at MRO zone substation for an estimated cost of \$4.5 million;

Powercor's preferred option is to establish a new transformer at MRO. However given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.20 Stawell (STL) zone substation

The zone substation in Stawell (**STL**) is served by sub-transmission lines from Horsham terminal station (**HOTS**) and with an additional tie to Ballarat terminal station (BATS) via Ararat (ART) and Ballarat North (BAN) zone substations. It supplies the township of Stawell and the surrounding areas including parts of the north Grampians.

Currently, the STL zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 3.4 MVA of load at risk for 138 hours of the year it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at STL. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the STL substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- permanently transfer load away from STL to ART by constructing a new 20 km feeder at ART for an estimated cost of \$3.5 million;
- install a new 10/13.5MVA third transformer at STL zone substation for an estimated cost of \$4.5 million;

Powercor's preferred option is to install a new transformer at STL. However given that the forecast load at risk is low, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.21 Truganina (TNA) zone substation

The TNA zone substation is comprised of two 25/33MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV. For the forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 41.4MVA of load at risk and for 1,107 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at TNA.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the TNA zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to adjacent zone substations of Laverton Laverton North (**LVN22**), zone substations up to a maximum transfer capacity of 16.4MVA in 2020/21 summer;
- Augment capacity by installing a third 25/33MVA transformer at TNA for an estimated cost of \$2.6 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to install a third transformer at TNA in 2021 to offload WBE & LV ZSS and eliminate a risk at TNA ZSS. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

This project is driven by the overall load at risk at LV, WBE and TNA ZSS. Therefore a demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 17.5MW across these zone substations would defer the need for this capital investment by one year in 2021.

In addition to the proposed works above, it is expected that a new substation at Tarneit (TRT) will be required within the next 5 years. When this station is commissioned it will be possible to transfer more load from both WBE and TNA to assist in further alleviating the forecast system limitations.

7.2.22 Terang (TRG) zone substation

The zone substation in Terang (**TRG**) is served by two sub-transmission lines from Terang terminal station (**TGTS**). It supplies Terang and surrounding rural area and is winter peaking.

Currently, the TRG zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 5.5MVA of load at risk for 171 hours of the year where it would be unable to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at TRG. That is, it would be unable to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the TRG zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Cobden (**COB**) and Camperdown (**CDN**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 5.6MVA;
- install a third 10/15MVA transformer at TRG for an estimated cost of \$3 million;
- augment TRG by replacing the No.1 13.5MVA transformer with a larger 25/33MVA unit at an estimated cost of \$3 million.

At TRG, the health index of the No. 3 transformers is 7.43, which indicates an elevated risk of failure. Due to this, it is planned to replace the No.3 transformer with a 25/33MVA unit in 2021 as part of asset replacement work.

After the poor condition No. 3 transformer has been replaced, Powercor's preferred option is to augment TRG by replacing the No.1 13.5MVA transformer with a larger 25/33MVA unit at an estimated cost of \$3 million. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.23 Werribee (WBE) zone substation

The zone substation in Werribee (**WBE**) is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Altona West terminal station (**ATS**). WBE supplies the domestic and commercial area of Werribee extending into surrounding urban areas of Mt Cottrell, Wyndham Vale, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing and Point Cook.

Currently, the WBE zone substation is comprised of two 20/33MVA and one 25/33MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 38.4 MVA of load at risk and for 89 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the transformers at WBE. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the WBE substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the adjacent zone substations of Laverton (**LV**) and Truganina (**TNA**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 3.8MVA in 2020/21;
- Augment capacity by installing a third 25/33MVA transformer at TNA and permanently transfer load away from WBE to TNA for an estimated cost of \$2.4 million for the new 22kV feeder and \$3 million for the new transformer.

Powercor's preferred option is to install a third transformer and new 22kV feeder at TNA in 2021. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

This project is driven by the overall load at risk at LV, WBE and TNA. Therefore a demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 19.3MW in 2021 across these zone substations would defer the need for this capital investment by one year.

In addition to the proposed works above, it is expected that a due to the expansion of development in the western metropolitan area, new substation at Tarneit (TRT) will be required within the next 5 years. When this station is commissioned it will be possible to transfer more load from both WBE and TNA to assist in further alleviating the forecast system limitations.

7.2.24 Wemen (WMN) zone substation

The zone substation in Wemen (**WMN**) is served by a sub-transmission line from the Wemen terminal station (**WETS**). It supplies the domestic and commercial area of Wemen extending into surrounding rural areas.

Currently, the WMN zone substation is comprised of one 10/13.5MVA transformer and one 25/33MVA transformer operating at 66/22 kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 8.9 MVA of load at risk and for 1731 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of 25/33 MVA transformers at WMN. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of the 25/33MVA transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at substation WMN, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the adjacent zone substation of Robinvale (**RVL**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 3.4MVA;

-
- Augment capacity by replacing the 10/13.5MVA transformer with a 25/33MVA transformer at an estimated cost of \$2.4 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to augment capacity at WMN by replacing the 10/13.5MVA transformer with a 25/33MVA transformer. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.2.25 Waurin Ponds (WPD) zone substation

The zone substation in Waurin Ponds (**WPD**) is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Geelong terminal station (**GTS**). It supplies the domestic and commercial areas of Waurin Ponds extending into the Surf Coast area.

Currently, the WPD zone substation is comprised of one 10/13.5MVA transformer and two 25/33MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 34 MVA of load at risk for 70 hours of the year where it would not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the 25/33MVA transformers at WPD. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers during high load periods following the loss of a transformer.

To address the anticipated system constraint at the WPD zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to adjacent zone substations of Geelong East (**GLE**) and Geelong City (**GKY**) to a maximum transfer capacity of 12.2MVA;
- offload 8MVA from Waurin Ponds (**WPD**) to Geelong East (**GLE**), through a new feeder tie for an estimated cost of \$0.9 million.
- As part of the establishment of Torquay (TQY) substation, 28.6MVA of load will be transferred from WPD to TQY. TQY will be established in 2022 as part of Powercor's REFCL compliance requirements.

Powercor's preferred option is to transfer load to the TQY substation when it is established in 2022. Contingency transfers will be used in the interim period should they be needed. Please refer to the System Limitations Template for further information regarding the preferred network investment.

7.3 Proposed new zone substations

7.3.1 Tarneit zone substation (TRT)

The new Tarneit zone substation (**TRT**) is proposed to commence option analysis, scope concept and design in 2022 and 2023. TRT is to be commissioned to support the growth in the western suburbs of Melbourne as the continued urban residential development (URD) is growing beyond the capacity of the existing electrical network infrastructure.

7.3.2 Torquay zone substation (TQY)

As a part of the REFCL program, Torquay (**TQY**) zone substation has been accepted as an alternate option to support the REFCL requirements at Waurin Ponds (**WPD**). It is proposed to commence design for this new zone substation in 2021 and commission the station in 2023.

7.3.3 Gheringhap zone substation (GHP)

As a part of the REFCL program, Gheringhap (**GHP**) zone substation is accepted as an alternate option to the REFCL requirements at Corio (**CRO**) and Geelong (**GL**). It is proposed to commence design for this new zone substation in 2021 and commission the station in 2023.

8 Sub-transmission Lines Review

This chapter reviews the sub-transmission lines where further investigation into the balance between capacity and demand over the next five years is warranted, taking into account the:

- forecasts for N-1 maximum demand to 2025; and
- line ratings for each sub-transmission line.

Where the sub-transmission line is forecast to operate with maximum demands greater than 5 per cent above their summer or winter rating under N-1 conditions during 2020, then this section assesses the energy at risk for those assets.

If the energy at risk assessment is material, then Powercor sets out possible options to address the system limitations. Powercor may employ the use of contingency load transfers to mitigate the system limitations although this will not always address the entire load at risk at times of maximum demand. At other times of lower load the available transfers may be greater. As a result, the use of load transfers under contingency situations may imply a short interruption of supply for customers to protect network elements from damage and enable all available load transfers to take place.

Non-network providers may wish to review the limitations and consider whether alternative solutions to those set out in the analysis may be suitable. Solutions may also address zone substation constraints at the same time.

Powercor notes that all other sub-transmission lines that are not specifically mentioned below either have loadings below the relevant rating or the loading above the relevant rating is minimal and can be addressed using the load transfer capability. In these cases, all customers can be supplied following the failure or outage of an individual network element.

Finally, sub-transmission lines that are proposed to be commissioned during the forward planning period are also discussed.

8.1 Sub-transmission lines with forecast system limitations overview

Using the analysis undertaken below in section 8.2, Powercor does not propose to augment any sub-transmission lines to address system limitations during the forward planning period.

The excel based detailed system limitation reports for the subtransmission lines with forecast limitations can be found at the link below by searching for sub transmission system limitation report:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/UaPnYl6yeV>

The options and analysis is undertaken in the sections below.

8.2 Sub-transmission lines with forecast system limitations

8.2.1 GTS-GB-GL-GCY 66 kV sub-transmission loop

The GTS-GB-GL-GCY 66kV sub-transmission loop supplies the Geelong City (**GCY**), Geelong B (**GB**) and Geelong (**GL**) zone substations fed from Geelong terminal station (**GTS**) at 66 kV.

For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 for the lines within this loop there will be:

- 39.1 MVA of load at risk and for 20 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the GTS-GCY line if there is an outage of the GTS-GB sub-transmission line.
- 29.3 MVA of load at risk and for 13 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the GB-GL line if there is an outage of the GTS-GCY sub-transmission line.

To address the anticipated system constraints within this sub-transmission loop, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent zone substation of Waurin Ponds (**WPD**) and Geelong East (**GLE**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 11 MVA;
- utilise limited cyclic ratings to alleviate the load at risk under contingency conditions;
- augment part of the GB-GL sub-transmission line by replacing the small conductors with larger conductors in order to increase thermal rating for an estimated cost of \$0.1 million;
- augment part of the GTS-GCY sub-transmission line by replacing the small conductors with larger conductors in order to increase thermal rating for an estimated cost of \$0.1 million;
- augment part of the GTS-GCY sub-transmission line by replacing the small underground cable section with larger cable in order to increase thermal rating for an estimated cost of \$0.5 million;

For the GTS-GCY-GB-GL line, Powercor's preferred option is to replace a cable section on part of the GTS-GCY and GL-GL lines. However given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low and GL is planned to be offloaded in 2022 these projects are not expected to occur during the forecast period. To protect the line from damage, Powercor has an automatic load shed scheme in service. Although the expected demand will exceed the sub-transmission line N-1 rating, for worst case outage, the use of limited cyclic ratings and contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

8.2.2 GTS-GLE-DDL 66 kV sub-transmission loop

The GTS-GLE-DDL sub-transmission loop supplies the Geelong East (**GLE**) and Drysdale (**DDL**) zone substations fed from Geelong terminal station (**GTS**) at 66 kV.

For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 for the lines within this loop there will be:

- 52.8 MVA of load at risk and for 17 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the GTS-GLE2 line if there is an outage of the GTS-GLE1 sub-transmission line.
- 37.9 MVA of load at risk and for 10 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the GTS-GLE1 line if there is an outage of the GTS-GLE2 sub-transmission line.

To address the anticipated system constraints within this sub-transmission loop, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to adjacent zone substations.

Given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low there is no project expected to occur during the forecast period. To protect the line from damage, Powercor has an automatic load shed scheme in service. Although the expected demand will exceed the sub-transmission line N-1 rating, for worst case outage, the use of limited cyclic ratings and contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

8.2.3 KGTS-SHL 66 kV sub-transmission loop

The KGTS-GSF-SHL sub-transmission loop supplies the Gannawarra Solar Farm (GSF) and Swan Hill (SHL) zone substation from Kerang terminal station (KGTS) at 66kV.

For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the Forecast Load Sheet.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 for the lines within this loop there will be:

- 18.8 MVA of load at risk and for 101 hours it will not be able to supply all customers from the KGTS-SHL line if there is an outage of the KGTS-GSF or GSF-SHL sub-transmission lines due to voltage limitations.

To address the anticipated system constraints within this sub-transmission loop, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the Boundary Bend (BBD) and Ouyen (OYN) zone substations up to a maximum transfer capacity of 0.5 MVA;
- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the Kerang terminal station (KGTS 22kV) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 0.3 MVA;
- an automatic line protection scheme to limit load to the line rating if an outage occurs for an estimated cost of \$0.2 million;

- augment the sub-transmission lines by replacing the small conductors with larger conductors in order to increase the voltage limitation on the KGTS-SHL line at an estimated cost of \$13 million.
- augment the KGTS-GSF sub-transmission line by replacing small sized conductors with large conductors in order to increase thermal rating at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace the conductors on the KGTS-SHL and KGTS-GSF lines over the longer term, which would also address voltage and thermal rating constraints under N-1 conditions. However given that the probability weighted value of energy at risk is not sufficient to justify augmentation, this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the station's N-1 cyclic rating, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

To protect the lines from damage, Powercor has installed an automatic line protection scheme.

8.2.4 RCTS-MDA-MBN 66 kV sub-transmission loop

The RCTS-MDA-MBN sub-transmission loop supplies the Mildura (**MDA**) and Merebin (**MBN**) zone substations fed from Red Cliffs terminal station (**RCTS**) at 66 kV.

For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 for the lines within this loop there will be:

- 28.3 MVA of load at risk, and for 107 hours it won't be able to supply all customers on the RCTS-MDA1 line during an outage of the RCTS-MDA2 or MBN-MDA lines.

To address the anticipated system constraints within this sub-transmission loop, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent Redcliff Terminal Station 22kV (**RCTS22**) and Merebin (**MBN**) zone substation via 22kV links up to a maximum transfer capacity of 16 MVA.

To protect the line from damage, Powercor has an automatic line protection scheme in service. Although the expected demand will exceed the sub-transmission line N-1 rating, for worst case outage, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

8.2.5 SBY-GSB No.1 66 kV sub-transmission loop

The SBY-GSB No.1 sub-transmission line supplies the Gisborne (**GSB**) and Woodened (**WND**) zone substations fed from Keilor terminal station (**KTS**) at 66 kV.

For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 for the lines within this loop there will be:

- 15.4 MVA of load at risk, and for 30 hours it won't be able to supply all customers on the SBY-GSB1 line during an outage of the SBY-GSB2 line.

To address the anticipated system constraints within this sub-transmission loop, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- Establish new 22kV links to the adjacent zone substations such as Melton (MLN), Castlemaine (CMN) or Jemena zone substations; due to the long distance and limited number of existing feeder ties, there is not much available transfer capacity to transfer load of GSB and WND to adjacent zone substations;
- Augment existing sub-transmission line by replacing the small conductors with larger conductors in order to increase thermal rating.

However given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. To protect the line from damage, Powercor has an automatic load shed scheme in service. Although the expected demand will exceed the sub-transmission line N-1 rating, for worst case outage, the use of limited cyclic ratings and contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

8.2.6 TGTS-HTN-NRB 66 kV sub-transmission loop

The TGTS-HTN-NRB 66kV sub-transmission loop supplies the Hamilton (**HTN**) zone substation and Nareeb (**NRB**) switching station from Geelong terminal station (**TGTS**) at 66 kV.

For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast station maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitations Template.

Powercor estimates that in 2025 for the lines within this loop there will be:

- 3.1 MVA of load at risk and for 5 hours it will exceed the voltage limit of the TGTS-NRB/HTN line if there is an outage of the TGTS-HTN sub-transmission line.

To address the anticipated system constraints within this sub-transmission loop, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the load at risk:

- an automatic load shed scheme to limit load to exceed the voltage limitation at HTN if an outage occurs for an estimated cost of \$0.1 million.
- build a 66kV switching station consist of 4 x 66kV Circuit Breakers arranged in a ring (with isolators). The switching station to be placed where the two 66kV circuits are adjacent and as close as possible to halfway between TGTS and HTN. The concept is that a line outage would only affect half of an existing circuit and also paralleling the two lines together significant reduces the circuit impedance mitigating the voltage stability issues for line outage. The project cost is estimated at \$5.5 million.
- establish an 80 km 66 kV line between Portland (PLD) and HTN to strengthen the system at HTN as well as PLD. However this option would cost in the order of \$20 million and could not be economically justified, hence this option is not recommended.

- establish a new 66kV connection point from the 275kV transmission network. The new connection point would be at Heywood terminal station (HYTS). The cost assumes that suitable space is available at HYTS site to install a new 275/66kV transformer with a single 66kV supply point and the feasibility to construct a new 60km 66kV sub-transmission line from HYTS to HTN. However this option would cost in the order of \$32 million and could not be economically justified, hence this option is not recommended.

An automatic load shedding scheme was implemented in 2018 at HTN. This scheme operates for loss of sub transmission lines under certain line voltage conditions. Powercor's preferred option is to build a 66kV switching station consist of 4 x 66kV circuit breakers placed as close as possible to halfway between TGTS and HTN. However given that the forecast annual hours at risk is low this project is not expected to occur during the forecast period. Although the expected demand will exceed the voltage limitation at HTN, for worst case outage per above, the use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk in the interim period.

8.3 Proposed new sub-transmission lines

This section sets out Powercor's plans for new sub-transmission lines.

Table 8.1 new sub transmission lines

Sub transmission lines	Description
Waurm Ponds (WPD) to Torquay (TQY) two new 66kV lines	To supply the new TQY zone substation
Tarneit (TRT) two new 66kV lines	To supply the new TRT zone substation
Gerringhap (GHP) two new 66kV lines	To supply the new GHP zone substation

9 Primary Distribution Feeder Reviews

This chapter reviews the primary distribution feeders where further investigation into the balance between capacity and demand over the next two years is warranted, taking into account the:

- forecasts for maximum demand to 2021; and
- summer and winter cyclic ratings for each feeder.

Where the feeders are forecast to operate with maximum demands at their firm summer or winter rating over the next two years, then this section assesses the energy at risk for those assets.

This review considers the primary section of a feeder, or what is commonly known as the backbone of the feeder exiting the zone substation to the first point of load for a low-voltage feeder or customer.

If the energy at risk assessment is material, then Powercor sets out possible options to address the system limitations. Powercor may employ the use of contingency load transfers to mitigate the system limitations although this will not always address the entire load at risk at times of maximum demand. At other times of lower load the available transfers may be greater. As a result, the use of load transfers under contingency situations may imply a short interruption of supply for customers to protect network elements from damage and enable all available load transfers to take place.

Non-network providers may wish to review the limitations and consider whether alternative solutions to those set out in the analysis may be suitable. Solutions may also address distribution feeder constraints at the same time.

Finally, distribution feeders that are proposed to be commissioned during the next two years are also discussed.

9.1 Primary distribution feeders with forecast system limitations overview

Powercor proposes to augment the feeders listed in the table 9.1 below in the next two years. Using the analysis undertaken below in section 9.2, Powercor proposes no distribution feeder augmentations in the next two years.

Table 9.1 – Proposed primary distribution feeders augmentations

Feeder	Description	Direct cost estimate (\$ million)	
		2021	2022
MLN021	Construct new feeder (MLN033) to mitigate exceeded feeder capacity in MLN011, MLN013 and MLN021.		2.8

The excel based detailed system limitation reports for the primary distribution feeders with forecast limitations can be found at the link below by searching for primary feeder system limitation report:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/UaPnYl6yeV>

9.2 Primary distribution feeders with forecast system limitations

9.2.1 MLN021 (New MLN033 feeder)

The Melton (**MLN**) zone substation supplies the domestic, commercial, industrial and farming areas of Melton, Melton South, Melton West, Kurunjang, Rockbank and Brookfield. It comprises two 20/33MVA transformers and one 25/33MVA transformer operating at 66/22kV.

MLN011, MLN013 and MLN021 feeders are three of nine 22kV feeders supplying the area surrounding MLN zone substation. The load along these feeders is forecast to exceed their thermal limitations due to continued residential and commercial development.

Powercor estimates that on MLN021 feeder, in summer 2021, there will be 3.4 MVA of unserved load above the thermal rating for 59 hour during system normal conditions. On MLN013 and MLN021 feeders, in subsequent summers will have load above their thermal rating during system normal conditions. That is, it would not be able to supply all customers along these feeders during high load periods.

These feeders have limited ties and with one another, hence, there is no opportunity to transfer loads to adjacent feeders.

Given these load forecasts, we will not be able to supply all customers during high load periods. To address the anticipated system constraint, we considered the following network solutions:

- Construct new MLN033 22kV feeder at an estimated cost of \$2.8M
- Augment MLN011, MLN013, and MLN021 feeder exits and backbones at an estimated cost of \$2.9 million.

The lowest cost option is to construct new MLN033 feeder in 2021. This will eliminate the forecast overload along MLN011, MLN013, and MLN021 feeders, utilise the spare transformer capacity at MLN, and allow for further load growth.

A demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 3.4 MVA on MLN011 feeder would defer the need for this capital investment by one year to 2022.

The next augmentation plan for MLN will be to establish the eleventh 22kV feeder, MLN34. At this stage, it is anticipated that MLN34 will be required around 2026 onwards.

9.3 Proposed new primary distribution feeders

As per section 7.2.12 and 7.2.24, Powercor proposes to establish a new 22kV feeder tie to TNA in 2019 to address the constraints at Laverton (**LV**) and Werribee (**WBE**) zone substations.

Table 9.2 – Proposed new primary distribution feeders

Feeder	Description	Direct cost estimate (\$ million)	
		2021	2022
TQY011, TQY012, TQY021, TQY022	Redirect existing 22kV feeders to new REFCL ZSS (Costs included within table 7.1 costs)		2.4
GHP011, GHP012, GHP021, GHP022	Redirect existing 22kV feeders to new REFCL ZSS (Costs included within table 7.1 costs)	4.8	2.2

The following primary distribution feeder projects are currently sitting outside of the primary feeder forecast period. It is however proposed to commence scope investigation and option analysis in 2020-21.

Table 9.2 Future primary distribution feeder projects

BAS031 new 22kV Ring Road feeder	BAS033 new 22kV Sebastopol feeder
BET010 22kV feeder exit upgrade	FNS032 feeder extension
DDL031 new 22kV feeder	FNS032 22kV feeder extension to Avalon
EHK023 66kV line section, stage 1	TNA new 22kV feeders
SA007 feeder augment underground section	WBE new 22kV feeders and upgrades
BG023 feeder re-conductor and thermal uprate	MBN023 feeder re-conductor and thermal uprate
SU003 feeder uprate	KGT004 feeder backbone augment
BAN002 feeder exit augmentation	MBN 22 upgrade exit to 630mm Al
CDN feeder exits uprate	BMH007 new 22kV feeder
BGO feeder rearrangement	SU008 feeder augment, stage 2
BMH004 feeder augment, stage 2 (5km)	MLN031 new 22kV feeder
Uprate/Augment BLT22 feeder to 65oC	BETS isolating transformer and feeder re-arrangement

10 Joint Planning

This section sets out the joint planning with DNSPs and TNSPs in relation to zone substations and sub-transmission lines. Joint planning in relation to terminal stations in isolation is discussed in the Transmission Connection Planning Report.

Powercor has not identified any new projects from our joint planning activities with other DNSPs in 2020. Our joint planning activities have included sharing load forecast information and load flow analysis between Victorian distributors relating to the sub-transmission system. Where a constraint is identified on our network that may impact another distributor, then project specific joint planning meetings are held to determine the most efficient and effective investment strategy to address the system constraint.

11 Changes to Analysis Since 2019

The following information details load forecasts and project timing changes that have occurred since the publication of the 2019 DAPR.

11.1 Constraints addressed or reduced due to projects completed

Powercor has undertaken the following projects in 2020 to address constraints identified in the 2019 DAPR:

- TNA012: Establish new 22kV feeder
- TNA022: Establish new 22kV feeder

11.2 New constraints identified

Changes in load forecasts or other factors during 2020 have resulted in Powercor undertaking risk assessments for the following zone substations or sub-transmission lines, which were not included in the 2019 DAPR:

- Cohuna (**CHA**) load forecasts have increased, resulting in load and hours at risk above threshold limits
- Cobden (**COB**) load forecasts have increased, resulting in load and hours at risk above threshold limits
- Horsham (**HSM**) load forecasts have increased, resulting in load and hours at risk above threshold limits
- Koroit (**KRT**) load forecasts have increased, resulting in load and hours at risk above threshold limits
- Stawell (**STL**) load forecasts have increased, resulting in load and hours at risk above threshold limits

11.3 Other material changes

In addition to the matters identified above, material changes compared to the 2019 DAPR include:

- Sunshine (**SU**) load forecasts have decreased, resulting in load and hours at risk below threshold limits

-
- Echuca (**ECA**) load forecasts have decreased, resulting in load and hours at risk below threshold limits

12 Asset Management

This section provides information on the Powercor asset management approach including the strategy employed, impacts on system limitations and where further details can be obtained.

12.1 Asset Management System Framework

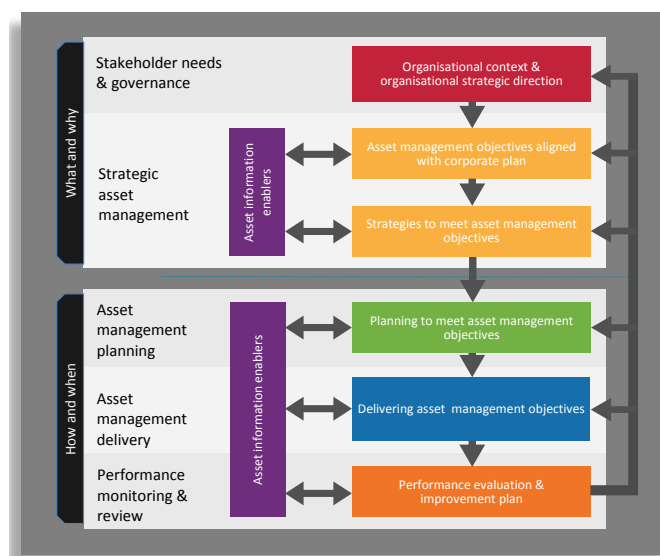
Powercor is committed to the application of best practice asset management strategies to ensure the safe and reliable operation of our electrical network. Powercor is continuing to develop and implement an asset management system that is aligned with the requirements of ISO 55001:2014, the international standard in asset management.

The Asset Management System (**AMS**) Framework is a high-level document that describes the asset management system that Powercor applies to its network assets. The AMS Framework identifies Powercor's asset management roles, accountabilities and all significant steps and processes involved in the asset life cycle, from the identification of need to creation, operation, maintenance and eventual disposal. Our AMS consists of five key levels:

- Level 1: Stakeholder needs and governance
- Level 2: Strategic asset management
- Level 3: Asset management planning
- Level 4: Asset management delivery
- Level 5: Performance monitoring and review

The structure and hierarchy of the AMS Framework is illustrated in Figure 12.1.

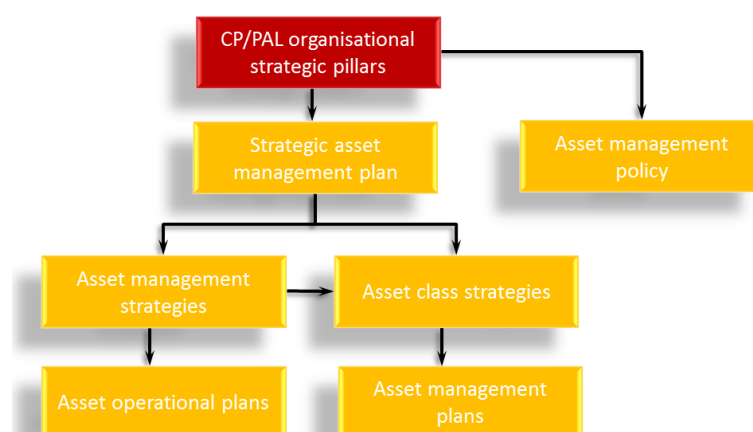
Figure 12.1 Asset Management Framework



Levels 1 and 2 describe ‘What’ asset management strategies and objectives are to be targeted and provide details regarding ‘Why’ these are required. Level 3 describes the approach taken to plan and budget for the delivery of the asset management activities, while level 4 describes ‘how’ and ‘when’ these activities are delivered to meet the strategies and objectives. Level 5 describes Powercor’s approach to performance monitoring and review of the asset management system.

The relationships between Powercor’s strategic asset management documentation are shown in figure 12.2. These strategic documents describe what asset management strategies and objectives are to be targeted and provide details regarding why these are required.

Figure 12.2 Strategy and planning document hierarchy



An overview of these documents is provided in the following sections.

12.1.1 Strategic Asset Management

Powercor’s asset management strategies and objectives are aligned to the asset management policy and to the needs of our stakeholders, including the direction articulated in our organisational strategic pillars and the asset management-related commitments made in our approved regulatory submission.

The strategic asset management level of Powercor’s AMS framework comprises the following key components:

- Asset management objectives
- Asset management policy
- Strategic Asset Management Plan (**SAMP**)
- Asset management strategies
- Asset class strategies

12.1.1.1. Asset Management Objectives

Powercor’s asset management objectives form the basis for evaluating the success of the asset management system in delivering against the organisational strategic pillars.

The asset management objectives for Powercor are:

- Manage and operate the network safely
- Meet our network reliability performance targets

-
- Manage our assets on a total life cycle basis at least cost
 - Adapt to our customer's future needs
 - Manage our compliance obligations
 - Empower and invest in our employees
 - Monitor opportunities and drive continuous improvement

The AMS Framework maps the asset management policy principles and asset management objectives to demonstrate the alignment to the organisational strategic pillars.

12.1.1.2. Asset Management Policy

Powercor's Asset Management (**AM**) Policy drives all asset management activities in our organisation. The AM Policy is a high-level statement providing:

- Our overall approach to asset management;
- The principles to be followed, and direction for establishing asset management strategies and objectives; and
- Management expectations regarding asset management outcomes.

The AM Policy requires asset management activities to meet business objectives and benefit the current and future needs of all customers, stakeholders and employees.

12.1.1.3. Strategic Asset Management Plan

Powercor's strategic asset management plan (**SAMP**) identifies our high-level strategies and objectives for asset management, and links these to the 'five strategic pillars', providing line of sight to the organisational strategy. The SAMP takes full account of our approaches to network risk and asset investment decision making, and provides long-term guidance for the development of the asset management strategies and class strategies.

12.1.1.4. Asset Management Strategies

Asset management strategies have been developed for eight subject areas to deliver Powercor's SAMP objectives. The Asset Management Strategy subjects are not asset specific and apply across all asset classes. Individual subject strategies are developed by considering:

- The Powercor organisational context and key asset management issues of a range of internal stakeholders; and
- The asset management requirements of a range of external stakeholders which may include the AER, AEMO and CFA.

The asset management strategies provide guidance for development of asset operational plans and asset management plans, to prioritise and deliver the asset management objectives and strategies. Refer to appendix D for a detailed list of the asset management strategy subjects and purpose of each strategy.

12.1.1.5. Asset Class Strategies

Powercor has identified sixteen asset class strategies (ACS) for which specific strategies and objectives have been developed, all of which are aligned to the SAMP. Each ACS is

formed from analysis of the required performance in terms of reliability and quality of supply, risk profile, functionality, availability and safety. The ACSs provide guidance for development of asset operational plans and asset management plans, which drive inspection, maintenance, condition monitoring, maintenance policies and work instructions. Refer appendix D for a detailed list of ACS documents and corresponding asset coverage.

12.1.2 Asset Management Planning

Powercor plan their asset management activities to maximise the value realised over the life of its assets. The asset management planning stream of Powercor's AM Framework is undergoing further development, with key focusses on asset investment planning, asset maintenance requirements and optimising the asset lifecycle.

Powercor have implemented a new value framework that will form the basis for quantitatively prioritising investments. The value framework is used to configure the Copperleaf C55 asset planning and investment tool to facilitate the quantitative prioritisation of investments going forward.

12.1.3 Asset management delivery

Powercor's asset management delivery and governance is facilitated via existing standards, policy, procedures and processes that stipulate the requirements for our asset management delivery. Monitoring of compliance is achieved via regular internal audit processes and reporting. Powercor's asset management committee provides specific oversight and governance to the Asset Management System.

12.1.4 Performance monitoring and review

Powercor monitors the performance of both network assets and the asset management system as a whole. The components of Powercor's performance monitoring and review level of the AM framework are outlined below:

- Risk assessment and management
- Business continuity planning
- Change management
- Asset performance and health monitoring
- Asset management monitoring and continual improvement
- Audit and assurance
- Stakeholder engagement

Considerable capital investment has been made to configure the network to provide real-time asset performance data that is used to develop a range of high and lower level performance indicators, including those that are required to be reported under the terms of our distribution licence. Additionally, Powercor conducts a range of internal and external reviews of the network and asset management system performance through internal audits, external audits and via regular management reviews. Where improvements to the AMS are required, these are consolidated into an AMS improvement plan.

12.1.5 Impact of Asset Management on System Limitations

Electrical plant and conductor ratings may be affected by asset management activities in that a condition assessment could result in a higher or lower operating temperature. This could

improve ratings to defer augmentation costs or lower ratings which will tend to bring forward expenditure whilst maximising system reliability, safety and security of supply. In addition, sections 3 and 14 cover the effect on the system of ageing and potentially unreliable assets.

12.1.6 Distribution Losses

Distribution losses refer to the energy used in transporting it across distribution networks. In 2017/18, 5.73 per cent of the total energy into the Powercor network was made up of losses. This is essentially calculated as the difference between the energy that Powercor procures and that which it supplies. These losses represent 90.4 per cent of Powercor's total greenhouse gas emissions, as defined under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Report Act*.

Powercor has a process to identify, justify and implement augmentation plans to address network constraints. Whilst loss reduction alone is not the main contributing factor in the decision of the preferred option, it is seen as the deciding factor if all other factors are equal. Powercor, as part of its plant selection process takes into account the cost of losses in its evaluation for transformer purchases.

12.1.7 Contact for further information

Further information on Powercor's asset management strategy and methodology can be obtained from contacting Powercor Customer Service:

- General Enquiries 13 22 06
- Website www.powercor.com.au

Detailed enquiries may be forwarded to the appropriate representatives within Powercor.

13 Asset Management Methodologies

The Asset Management Framework describes the asset management system that is applied to Powercor's network assets, and requires the AMS to:

- Support the asset life cycle;
- Recognise the value of assets in decision-making at each stage of the life cycle; and
- Enable asset management decisions to be optimised based on business risk, asset performance and life cycle cost.

Powercor's assets are subject to relevant condition assessment methods through planned inspection and monitoring programs. These programs have been developed taking into account regulatory obligations, industry knowledge as well as proven and established asset management methodologies.

Powercor applies the following asset management methodologies to its network assets:

- reliability and safety based regime — this methodology is based on the principles of Reliability-Centred Maintenance (**RCM**) together with regulatory obligations and risk assessment that are built into the asset management procedures. It is applied to routine replacement expenditure for high-volume assets such as poles, pole top-equipment, cross-arms, insulators, batteries etc. The approach has regard for the asset age, condition and operating environment; and
- Condition Based Risk Management (**CBRM**) — this methodology is applied to assess the condition of assets, including the risk of the deterioration, of major items of plant, which involve significant expenditure. This includes assets such as zone substation transformers and switchgear.

These are discussed in more detail in the sections below.

13.1 'Poles and wires'

The reliability and safety based regime, based on RCM principles, regulatory obligations and risk assessment, is applied to high-volume assets such as poles, cross-arms, etc.

The RCM process is used to determine what must be done to ensure that our physical network assets continue to operate at their intended performance levels at the most efficient cost. It is an internationally recognised and widely used methodology used to determine the most appropriate maintenance strategy for a particular class of asset at efficient cost.

For each asset type, the RCM process identifies possible ways in which a defect may occur in an asset, and the root cause of that defect. For each different type of defect, the possible impact on the safety, operations and other equipment in the network is assessed and a maintenance strategy is determined.

When implementing the RCM methodology for the inspection of assets, the risks associated with asset failures have been considered together with the inspection and repair costs to determine the most efficient inspection frequency and timeframe for repair of identified defects. Where a defect is identified, the maintenance strategy to address that defect is implemented. This may involve either asset replacement or maintenance measures to prolong the asset's life, such as pole staking.

The RCM process can be summarised by a series of steps, as follows.

Figure 13.1 Steps in the RCM process to develop a maintenance strategy



RCM analysis is undertaken by taking into account the equipment manufacturer's recommendations, the physical and electrical environment in which the asset is installed, fault and performance data, test data, condition data, duty cycles as well as many years of field-based experience.

The combination of general maintenance requirements and the specific requirements based on the environments in which the assets operate, may result in varying maintenance and condition monitoring regimes for the same type of asset. Tests and inspections are undertaken using tools such as thermal imagery, visual inspections, and invasive pole testing to assess asset condition.

The following example demonstrates how we apply RCM methodology in the case of wood poles, in practice:

1. Data collection — population demographics are determined so that the volume, age, strength, location and timber species is known. Each of these parameters are analysed to determine how they impact on the performance of poles and may require differing maintenance strategies. Performance data is gathered to determine defect rates, population condition, failure rates and root causes of failures.
2. RCM analysis team — a team of subject matter experts are assembled comprising employees and industry representatives (wood pole suppliers, other authorities, research bodies) to undertake the analysis;
3. Failure mode analysis — all the known and potential failure modes are identified. This generally includes identification of the following:
 - function of the asset;
 - failure types;
 - potential impacts of failure; and
 - potential causes of failure.
4. Maintenance policy developed — appropriate maintenance policies are determined for each failure mode to meet the required performance. This performance is generally expressed as an availability rate for the asset. The maintenance strategies include inspection frequencies, pole treatment frequencies (fungal decay), pole reinstatement, redesign, pole replacement and termite treatment.
5. Systems updated — the policy development/RCM process determines the frequency of inspections based on risk and economics. SAP (our corporate asset management system) then applies the policy rules to the poles to ensure that inspections take place with the right frequency based on that prioritisation. Prioritised inspections are automatically generated and notifications are created to undertake any required maintenance actions triggered during the inspection process.
6. Monitoring — performance of maintenance strategies are monitored such as defect and failure rates to ensure effective implementation and verification of expected outcomes. A further review may be undertaken should performance not meet expectation.

Maintenance and associated condition monitoring policies are reviewed periodically. When new assets are introduced into the network, existing maintenance and condition monitoring plans are reviewed to ensure coverage of the change or new plans are created as appropriate.

Maintenance plans, policies, tasks and work instructions are captured and managed in the SAP Maintenance Management system. The RCM rules are configured in SAP, which automatically generates time based work orders for inspection and maintenance planning.

As part of the Pole Management Improvement Program, a pole CBRM model is being established for implementation mid-2021 to enable a risk based asset management approach. This will result in proactive pole interventions on a risk justified basis when operationalised.

13.1.1 Location and timing of asset retirements

The location and the timing of the retirements of the 'poles and wires' types of assets are not available at the start of any planning year. The location of the asset is determined only once an inspection is carried out and if a defect is detected. The severity of the inspected defect will determine the maximum time that can lapse before action is taken.

13.2 Transformers and switchgear

CBRM is a structured process that combines asset information, engineering knowledge and practical experience to define future condition, performance and risk for network assets.

Powercor applies the CBRM methodology to certain plant-based asset classes, namely transformers and circuit breakers. The CBRM methodology that Powercor uses has been developed by EA Technology.

The methodology draws upon Powercor's knowledge and experience relating to degradation, failure, condition assessment, performance and influence of environment, duty, operational policy and specification of network assets. It is used to define current and future condition and performance of the assets.

The CBRM process can be summarised by a series of sequential steps, which is set out below.

Table 13.2 Steps in the CBRM process

Step	Description
1	Define asset condition Health indices are derived for individual assets within different asset groups. Health indices are described on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates the best condition and 10 the worst.
2	Link current condition to performance Health indices are calibrated against relative probability of failure (PoF). The HI/PoF relationship for an asset group is determined by matching the HI profile with the relevant observed failure rates.
3	Estimate future condition and performance Knowledge of degradation processes is used to trend health indices over time. This ageing rate for an individual asset is dependent on its initial HI and operating conditions. Future failure rates can then be calculated from aged HI profiles and the previously defined HI/PoF relationship.
4	Evaluation of potential interventions in terms of PoF and failure rates The effect of potential replacement, refurbishment or changes to maintenance regimes can then be modelled and the future HI profiles and failure rates reviewed accordingly.
5	Define and weight consequences of failure (CoF) A consistent framework is defined and populated in order to evaluate consequences in significant categories such as network performance, safety, financial, environmental, etc. The consequence categories are weighted to relate them to a common unit.
6	Build risk model For an individual asset, its probability and consequence of failure are combined to calculate risk. The total risk associated with an asset group is then obtained by summing the risk of the individual assets.
7	Evaluate potential interventions in terms of risk The effect of potential replacement, refurbishment or changes to maintenance regimes can then be modelled to quantify the potential risk profile associated with different strategies.
8	Review and refine information and process Building and managing a risk based process driven by asset specific information is not a one-off process. The initial application will deliver results based on available information and crucially, identify opportunities for ongoing improvement that can be used to build an improved asset information framework.

In terms of the steps in the process:

- steps 1 to 4 essentially relate to condition and performance and provide a systematic process to identify and predict end-of-life. Future expenditure plans can then be linked to probability of failure and failure rates;

-
- steps 5 to 7 deal with consequence of failure and asset criticality that are combined with PoF values to enable definition and quantification of risk; and
 - step 8 is a recognition that building and operating a risk-based process using asset specific information is not a one-off exercise.

Each year, Powercor updates the data in its CBRM model. Powercor reviews the outputs of the CBRM and identifies the projects that deliver the greatest risk reduction. The latter projects are determined by calculating the difference between the risk in a future year if the asset is not replaced and the risk that would result if the plant is replaced, and then assessing the various options to deliver the risk reduction.

While the CBRM methodology identifies a proposed year for the replacement of an asset, the project is then reviewed in conjunction with other augmentation and development plans in order to identify opportunities for synergies, such that the replacement schedule can coincide with other major works. The project is then captured within a future works plan.

13.3 Other items of plant and equipment

Condition-based monitoring and risk-based economic assessment is not possible or cost-effective for all types of plant and equipment. Some plant and equipment rely upon inspection cycles, similar to poles and wires, while others rely on age as the best estimate of condition. Some assets that do not directly impact the performance of the network, and for which the cost of implementing a condition-based or a risk-based approach outweighs the benefit, are run to failure. Other assets, such as surge arrestors, are designed to only be used once and are replaced upon use.

Details of retirement and replacement methodologies for these assets are set out in the relevant asset management plans, and explained in the next chapter.

14 Retirements and De-ratings

This chapter sets out the planned network retirements over the forward planning period. The reference to asset retirements includes asset replacements, as the old asset is retired and replaced with a new asset.

In addition, this chapter discusses planned asset de-ratings that would result in a network constraint or system limitation over the planning period.

The System Limitation Report details those asset retirements and de-ratings that result in a system limitation.

Where more than one asset of the same type is to be retired or de-rated in the same calendar year, and the capital cost to replace each asset is less than \$200,000, then the assets are reported together below.

14.1 Individual assets

A summary of the individual assets that are planned to be retired in the forecast planning period is provided in the table below. A more detailed and accurate assessment including the assessment of non-network alternatives will be carried out at the business case or RIT-D stage.

Table 14.1 Planned asset retirements and de-ratings

Location	Asset	Project	Retirement date	2019 DAPR
Inglewood (IWD) Regulator Substation	IWD Regulator	Replacement	2023	2024
Robinvale (RVL) Zone Substation	Transformer 1	Replacement	2021	2021
Robinvale (RVL) Zone Substation	Transformer 2	Replacement	2023	2024

Location	Asset	Project	Retirement date	2019 DAPR
Warrnambool (WBL) Zone Substation	Transformer 3	Replacement	2022	2022
Koroit (KRT) Zone Substation	KRT CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2024	2021
Eaglehawk (EHK) Zone Substation	EHK CB A 66kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2022	2025
Hamilton (HTN) Zone Substation	HTN CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2023	2020
Portland (PLD) Zone Substation	PLD CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2025	2023
Ballarat North (BAN) Zone Substation	BAN CB A LG4C 66kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2024	2024
Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation	CME14 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2021	2021
Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation	OYN5 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2025	2021
Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation	OYN1 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2025	Not included

Location	Asset	Project	Retirement date	2019 DAPR
Nhill (NHL) Zone Substation	NHL15 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2024	2024
Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation	CME21 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2021	2021
Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation	CME16 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2022	2022
Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation	CME22 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2023	Not included
Nhill (NHL) Zone Substation	NHL16 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2024	2024
Nhill (NHL) Zone Substation	NHL31 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2023	2023
Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation	CME15 22kV Circuit Breaker	Replacement	2022	2022

For the forward planning period, there are no committed investments worth \$2 million or more to address urgent and unforeseen network issues.

The excel based detailed system limitation reports for asset replacements can be found at the link below by searching for asset replacement system limitation report:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/UaPnYI6yeV>

14.1.1 Ballarat North (BAN) Zone Substation CB A LG4C 66kV Circuit Breaker

The Ballarat North (**BAN**) zone substation is served by 66KV sub-transmission lines interconnected with Ballarat terminal station (**BATS**) and Buangor zone substation (**BGR**) supplying the Ballarat north area.

The BAN zone substation is comprised of three 20/40 MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV connected to a 66kV sub-transmission system via four transformer circuit breakers and three line circuit breakers. The circuit breakers A, G and H are still old style oil filled circuit breakers and the rest of the breakers have been replaced with new SF6 type.

CBRM analysis determined that the 66kV CB A BATS line circuit breaker has the current health index at 5.66 rising to 6.55 in next five years, and is forecast to require replacement in 2024.

Currently these circuit breakers are inspected and tested according to six yearly maintenance plans. These old oil filled circuit breaker failures will risk the reliability of the network due to the inadequate spare parts availability and the unavailability of internal and external skilled resources to repair safely.

Powercor estimates that in 2021 with the breaker retired there will be no load at risk for a sub transmission line fault.

According to the Powercor zone substation switch gear asset class strategy, the aim is to reduce the oil filled old circuit breaker population from the network to significantly reduce the associated safety and reliability risks in event of an oil filled circuit breaker failed catastrophically.

To address the anticipated constraint at BAN zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- replace 66kV Bus tie Circuit breaker A at BAN for an estimated cost of \$0.4 million
- retirement of the breaker by bridging the breaker position would prospectively cost \$0.5 million due to the protection changes required.

Powercor preferred option is to replace the 66kV bus tie circuit breaker A in 2024.

14.1.2 Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME14 22kV Circuit Breaker

The Cobram East (**CME**) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Numurkah zone substation (**NKA**). This station supplies the Cobram East area. Currently, the CME zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

CME014 feeder which has been in service for 49 years, is one of five 22kV feeders that supply the surrounding area from CME zone substation. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the CME014 22kV Feeder ACR has a health index of 3.66 rising to 4.31 in next five years and requires replacement in 2021. Retirement of this ACR would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the feeder.

With the CME014 feeder ACR retired, Powercor estimates that in 2021 there will be 10.8 MVA of unserved load and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers on the feeder.

To address the anticipated system constraint at CME zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent CME016 up to a maximum transfer capacity of 2.5 MVA, and install portable emergency generation;
- replace CME014 22kV feeder ACR at CME with a standard Powercor 22kV circuit breaker (VOX) for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace CME014 22kV feeder ACR at CME in 2021. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.3 Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME15 22kV Circuit Breaker

The Cobram East (**CME**) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Numurkah zone substation (**NKA**). This station supplies the Cobram East area. Currently, the CME zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

CME015 feeder which is in service for 49 years, is one of five 22kV feeders that supply the surrounding area to CME zone substation. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the CME015 22kV Feeder ACR has a health index of 3.66 rising to 4.31 in next five years and requires replacement in 2024. Retirement of this ACR would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the feeder.

With the CME015 feeder ACR retired, Powercor estimates that in 2022 there will be 6.3 MVA of unserved load and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers on the feeder.

To address the anticipated system constraint at CME zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent CME014 up to a maximum transfer capacity of 2.5 MVA, and install portable emergency generation;
- replace CME015 22kV feeder ACR at CME with a standard Powercor 22kV circuit breaker (VOX) for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace CME015 22kV feeder ACR at CME in 2022. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.4 Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME16 22kV Circuit Breaker

The Cobram East (**CME**) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Numurkah zone substation (**NKA**). This station supplies the Cobram East area. Currently, the CME zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

CME016 feeder which has been in service for 49 years, is one of five 22kV feeders that supply the surrounding area from CME zone substation. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the CME016 22kV Feeder ACR has a health index of 3.66 rising to 4.31 in next five years and requires replacement in 2023. Retirement of this ACR would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the feeder.

With the CME016 feeder ACR retired, Powercor estimates that in 2022 there will be 9.5 MVA of unserved load and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers on the feeder.

To address the anticipated system constraint at CME zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent CME014 up to a maximum transfer capacity of 2.5 MVA, and install portable emergency generation;
- replace CME016 22kV feeder ACR at CME with a standard Powercor 22kV circuit breaker (VOX) for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace CME016 22kV feeder ACR at CME in 2022. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.5 Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME21 22kV Circuit Breaker

The Cobram East (**CME**) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Numurkah zone substation (**NKA**). This station supplies the Cobram East area. Currently, the CME zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

CME021 feeder which is in service for 49 years is one of five 22kV feeders that supply the surrounding area to CME zone substation. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the CME021 22kV Feeder ACR has a health index of 3.66 rising to 4.31 in next five years and requires replacement in 2021. Retirement of this ACR would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the feeder.

With the CME015 feeder ACR retired, Powercor estimates that in 2021 there will be 6.8 MVA of unserved load and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers on the feeder.

To address the anticipated system constraint at CME zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent CME014 up to a maximum transfer capacity of 2.5 MVA, and install portable emergency generation;
- replace CME021 22kV feeder ACR at CME with a standard Powercor 22kV circuit breaker (VOX) for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace CME021 22kV feeder ACR at CME in 2021. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.6 Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME22 22kV Circuit Breaker

The Cobram East (**CME**) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Numurkah zone substation (**NKA**). This station supplies the Cobram East area. Currently, the CME zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

CME022 feeder which has been in service for 49 years, is one of five 22kV feeders that supply the surrounding area from CME zone substation. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the CME022 22kV Feeder ACR has a health index of 2.2 rising to 2.73 in next five years and requires replacement in 2023. Retirement of this ACR would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the feeder.

With the CME022 feeder ACR retired, Powercor estimates that in 2023 there will be 14.0 MVA of unserved load and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers on the feeder.

To address the anticipated system constraint at CME zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22 kV links to the adjacent CME022 up to a maximum transfer capacity of 2.5 MVA, and install portable emergency generation;
- replace CME022 22kV feeder ACR at CME with a standard Powercor 22kV circuit breaker (VOX) for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace CME022 22kV feeder ACR at CME in 2023. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.7 Eaglehawk (EHK) Zone Substation CB A 66kV Circuit Breaker

The Eaglehawk (**EHK**) zone substation is served by 66KV sub-transmission lines from Bendigo zone substation (**BGO**) in a loop with Bendigo terminal station (**BETS**).

The EHK zone substation is comprised of two 20/27 MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV connected to 66kV sub-transmission system with two line circuit breakers and one bus tie circuit breaker.

The CBRM analysis determined that the 66kV CB B bus tie circuit breaker has the current health index at 5.96 rising to 6.97 in next five years, and forecast require replacement in 2022.

Currently this circuit breaker are inspected and tested according to six yearly maintenance plans. These old oil filled circuit breaker failures will risk the reliability of the network due to

the inadequate spare parts availability and the unavailability of internal and external skilled resources to repair safely.

According to the Powercor zone substation switch gear asset class strategy, the aim is to reduce the oil filled old circuit breaker population from the network to significantly reduce the associated safety and reliability risks in event of an oil filled circuit breaker failed catastrophically.

Powercor estimates that without the 66kV breaker A in service there will be 19.1 MVA of load at risk in 2022 and for 304 hours they will be unable to supply customers during a sub-transmission line fault.

To address the anticipated constraint at EHK zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- replace 66kV Bus tie Circuit breaker A at EHK for an estimated cost of \$0.42 million
- retirement of the breaker by bridging the breaker position would cost \$0.5 million due to the protection changes required and cause load shedding at peak times for a sub-transmission line fault.
- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the adjacent zone substations of Bendigo Terminal Station 22 kV (**BETS22**), Bendigo (**BGO**), Kyabram (**KYM**), and Cohuna (**CHA**) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 14.7 MVA;

Powercor preferred option is to replace the 66kV bus tie circuit breaker A in 2022. The use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date.

14.1.8 Hamilton (HTN) Zone Substation CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker

The Hamilton (**HTN**) zone substation is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Terang terminal station (**TGTS**) in a loop with Nareeb (**NRB**) switching station, is supplying the Hamilton area.

Currently, the HTN zone substation is comprised of three 10/13 MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV and connected to 66kV sub-transmission lines from TGTS and NRB separated by two 66kV line circuit breakers. The line circuit breaker A has been replaced with SF6 type in 2005 and the circuit breaker B which is still an oil insulated circuit breaker is in service from 1969. CBRM analysis determined that the 66kV CB B line circuit breaker has the current health index at 5.97 rising to 7.02 in next five years, and is forecast to require replacement in 2023.

Currently these switch gears are inspected and tested according to six yearly maintenance plans. These old oil filled circuit breaker failures will risk the reliability of the network due to the inadequate spare parts availability and the unavailability of internal and external skilled resources to repair safely.

According to the Powercor zone substation switch gear asset class strategy, the aim is to reduce the oil filled old circuit breaker population from the network to significantly reduce the associated safety and reliability risks in event of an oil filled circuit breaker failed catastrophically.

Powercor estimates that in 2023 there will be 27.7 MVA of load at risk, and for 8760 hours it won't be able to supply all customers at HTN zone substation for a sub-transmission line fault

To address the anticipated constraint at HTN zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- replace 66kV Bus tie Circuit breaker B at HTN for an estimated cost of \$0.42 million
- retirement of the breaker by bridging the breaker position would not be considered, as all customers would experience an outage of at least two hours for any sub-transmission fault.

Powercor preferred option is to replace the 66kV bus tie circuit breaker B in 2023. The use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date.

14.1.9 Inglewood (IWD) Zone Substation Regulator

The Inglewood (**IWD**) regulator connected to 66KV sub-transmission lines from Charlton zone substation (**CTN**) and Bendigo terminal station (**BETS**) is in service for 78 years.

CBRM analysis determined that the 66KV Regulator has a health index of 7.0 rising to 7.84 in next five years and is forecast to require replacement in 2023.

To address the anticipated system constraint by retiring the IWD regulator, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- Replace the regulator at IWD for an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace the regulator in 2023. Without a regulator at Inglewood the entire Charlton zone substation and Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm system would not be able to be supported and would be off supply. As there are no non network solution able to provide the system support functions of this regulator, a system limitations report is not provided. Load details of the Charlton load are however available from the load forecast sheet.

14.1.10 Koroit (KRT) Zone Substation KRT CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker

The Koroit (**KRT**) zone substation is served by 66KV sub-transmission lines interconnected with Portland (**PLD**), Yambuk wind farm (**YWF**), Warrnambool (**WBL**), Terang terminal station (**TGTS**) and Codrington Wind Farm (**CWF**), supplying the Koroit area.

The KRT zone substation is comprised of three 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV and two 66KV regulators connected to 66kV sub-transmission system inter-tied with six oil filled bus tie circuit breakers.

The CBRM analysis determined that the 66kV CB B bus tie circuit breaker has the current health index at 6.27 rising to 7.4 in next five years, and forecast require replacement in 2024.

Currently these circuit breakers are inspected and tested according to six yearly maintenance plans. These old oil filled circuit breaker failures will risk the reliability of the network due to the inadequate spare parts availability and the unavailability of internal and external skilled resources to repair safely.

According to the Powercor zone substation switch gear asset class strategy, the aim is to reduce the oil filled old circuit breaker population from the network to significantly reduce the

associated safety and reliability risks in event of an oil filled circuit breaker failed catastrophically.

Powercor estimates that with the breaker retired, there will be 36.9 MVA of load at risk in 2024, and for 8760 hours the zone substation won't be able to supply the load under sub-transmission line fault conditions.

To address the anticipated constraint at KRT zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- replace 66kV Bus tie Circuit breaker B at KRT for an estimated cost of \$0.42 million
- retirement of the breaker by bridging the breaker position would not be considered, as all customers would experience an outage of at least two hours for any sub-transmission fault on the Warrnambool line.

Powercor preferred option is to replace the 66kV bus tie circuit breaker B in 2024. The use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date.

14.1.11 Nhill (NHL) Zone Substation NHL15, NHL 16 and NHL31 22kV Circuit Breakers

The Nhill (**NHL**) zone substation is connected to the single radial sub-transmission line from the Kiata wind farm switching station (**KWF**). Currently, the NHL zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

The NHL15, NHL16 and NHL31 22KV feeders are in service from 1970. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the NHL15, NHL16 and NHL31 circuit breakers have current health index of 3.66 rising to 4.31 in next five years and require replacement in 2023 and 2024. Retirement of these circuit breakers would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the zone substation.

Powercor estimates that with all the 22kV circuit breakers retired at the end of their lifetime in 2024 the load of 8.7 MVA will be at risk and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply any customers.

To address the anticipated system constraint at NHL zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- replace NHL15, NHL16 and NHL31 22kV feeder circuit breakers in 2023 and 2024 with standard Powercor 22kV circuit breakers for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million each.
- Transfer load away to the adjacent Horsham (**HSM**) zone substation via 22kV links up to a max capacity of 1.1 MVA.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace NHL15, NHL16 and NHL31 22kV feeder breakers in 2023 and 2024. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.12 Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation OYN1 22kV Circuit Breaker

The Ouyen (**OYN**) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Hattah zone substation (**HTH**). Currently, the OYN zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

The OYN5 feeder which is in service for 52 years, is one of five 22kV feeders that supply the surrounding area to OYN zone substation. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the OYN1 22kV Feeder circuit breaker has a health index of 4.98 rising to 5.81 in next five years and requires replacement in 2025. Retirement of this circuit breaker would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the feeder.

With the OYN1 feeder circuit breaker retired, Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 1.8 MVA of unserved energy and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers on the feeder.

To address the anticipated system constraint at OYN zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- replace OYN1 22kV feeder circuit breaker with a standard Powercor 22kV circuit breaker for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace OYN1 22kV feeder breaker in 2025. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.13 Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation OYN5 22kV Circuit Breaker

The Ouyen (**OYN**) zone substation is served by a single radial sub-transmission line from the Hattah zone substation (**HTH**). Currently, the OYN zone substation is comprised of two 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22 kV.

The OYN5 feeder which is in service for 52 years, is one of five 22kV feeders that supply the surrounding area to OYN zone substation. For the historic and forecast asset ratings and forecast feeder maximum demand, please refer to the System Limitation Sheet.

CBRM analysis determined that the OYN5 22kV Feeder circuit breaker has a health index of 4.98 rising to 5.81 in next five years and requires replacement in 2025. Retirement of this circuit breaker would result in an inability to supply the load presently supplied by the feeder.

With the OYN5 feeder circuit breaker retired, Powercor estimates that in 2025 there will be 3.2 MVA of unserved energy and for 8760 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers on the feeder.

To address the anticipated system constraint at OYN zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the unserved load:

- replace OYN5 22kV feeder circuit breaker with a standard Powercor 22kV circuit breaker for an estimated cost of \$0.12 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace OYN5 22kV feeder breaker in 2025. The use of contingency load transfers and emergency generation will mitigate the risk should the asset

fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. Please refer to the System Limitation Report for further information regarding details of the limitation and preferred network investment.

14.1.14 Portland (PLD) Zone Substation CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker

The Portland (**PLD**) zone substation is served by 66KV sub-transmission lines in a loop connected to Yambuk wind farm (**YWF**), Koroit Zone Substation (**KRT**), Warnambool Zone Substation (**WBL**) and Codrington wind farm (**CWF**) 66KV sub transmission lines.

The PLD zone substation is comprised of two 10/16 MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV connected to 66kV sub-transmission system with two line circuit breakers.

The CBRM analysis determined that the 66kV CB B line circuit breaker has the current health index at 5.96 rising to 6.97 in next five years, and forecast requires replacement in 2025.

Currently these circuit breakers are inspected and tested according to six yearly maintenance plans. These old oil filled circuit breaker failures will risk the reliability of the network due to the inadequate spare parts availability and the unavailability of internal and external skilled resources to repair safely.

According to the Powercor zone substation switch gear asset class strategy, the aim is to reduce the oil filled old circuit breaker population from the network to significantly reduce the associated safety and reliability risks in event of an oil filled circuit breaker failed catastrophically.

Powercor estimates that with the breaker out of service, there will be 19.4 MVA of load at risk in 2025 and for 8760 hours it won't be able to supply customers at PLD zone substation for a sub transmission line failure.

To address the anticipated constraint at PLD zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- replace 66kV Bus tie Circuit breaker B at PLD for an estimated cost of \$0.42 million
- retirement of the breaker by bridging the breaker position would not be considered, as all customers would experience an outage of at least two hours for a sub-transmission fault.

Powercor preferred option is to replace the 66kV line circuit breaker A in 2025. The use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date.

14.1.15 Robinvale (RVL) Zone Substation Transformer 1

The zone substation in Robinvale (**RVL**) is served by a sub-transmission line from Red Cliffs terminal station (**RCTS**) and consists of three 5/6.5 MVA transformers in service for 69 years. It supplies the area of Robinvale extending into surrounding areas.

CBRM analysis determined that the No1 transformer has a health index of 6.21 rising to 7.01 in next five years and is forecast to require replacement in 2021. Retirement of this transformer would require the remaining station load would need to be carried by the two remaining transformers and would place customers at risk of extended outages during times of unplanned network contingencies.

With the No1 transformer retired, Powercor estimates that in 2021 there will be 10.7 MVA of load at risk and for 1,233 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the two remaining transformers at RVL.

To address the anticipated system constraint at RVL zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- contingency plan to install mobile generation at 22kV to RVL feeders;
- Replace No1 Transformer at RVL for an estimated cost of \$3.9 million.
- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the adjacent Wemen Zone Substation (**WMN**) up to a maximum capacity of 0.6 MVA.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace the No1 Transformer at RVL in 2021. The use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. For more details and data on the limitation and preferred network investment please refer to the attached System Limitation Report.

A demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 10.7 MW at RVL zone substation would defer the need for this capital investment by one year.

14.1.16 Robinvale (RVL) Zone Substation Transformer 2

The zone substation in Robinvale (**RVL**) is served by a sub-transmission line from Red Cliffs terminal station (**RCTS**) and consists of three 5/6.5 MVA transformers in service for 69 years. It supplies the area of Robinvale extending into surrounding areas.

CBRM analysis determined that the No2 transformer has a health index of 6.21 rising to 7.01 in next five years and is forecast to require replacement in 2023. Retirement of this transformer would require the remaining station load would need to be carried by the two remaining transformers and would place customers at risk of extended outages during times of unplanned network contingencies.

With the No2 transformer retired, Powercor estimates that in 2023 there will be 10.9 MVA of load at risk and for 1,275 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the two remaining transformers at RVL.

To address the anticipated system constraint at RVL zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- contingency plan to install mobile generation at 22kV to RVL feeders;
- Replace No2 Transformer at RVL for an estimated cost of \$3.7 million.
- Contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the adjacent Wemen Zone Substation (**WMN**) up to a maximum capacity of 0.6 MVA.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace the No2 Transformer at RVL in 2023. The use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. For more details and data on the limitation and preferred network investment please refer to the attached System Limitation Report.

A demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 10.9 MW at RVL zone substation would defer the need for this capital investment by one year

14.1.17 Warrnambool (WBL) Zone Substation Transformer 3

The zone substation Warrnambool (**WBL**) is served by two sub-transmission lines from the Terang Zone Substation (**TRG**) and one from Koroit (**KRT**) zone substation and is comprised of two 25/33 MVA transformer and one 10/13.5 MVA transformers operating at 66/22kV. The transformer 3 is in service for the last 71 years. This zone substation supplies the Warrnambool and surrounding areas.

CBRM analysis determined that the No.3 Transformer has a current health index of 9.74 and is forecast to require replacement in 2022. Retirement of this transformer would require the remaining station load to be carried by the two remaining transformers and would place customers at risk of extended outages during times of unplanned network contingencies.

With the No3 transformer retired, Powercor estimates that in 2022 there will be 5.2 MVA of load at risk and for 10 hours in the year it will not be able to supply all customers from the zone substation if there is a failure of one of the two remaining transformers at WBL.

To address the anticipated system constraint at WBL zone substation, Powercor considers that the following network solutions could be implemented to manage the risk:

- contingency plan to transfer load away via 22kV links to the adjacent zone substation of Koroit (KRT) up to a maximum transfer capacity of 11.1 MVA;
- augment capacity by replacing the existing No3 66/22kV 10/13.5 MVA transformer at WBL with a larger 25/33 MVA unit for an estimated cost of \$3.7 million.

Powercor's preferred option is to replace the No3 Transformer at WBL in 2022. The use of contingency load transfers will mitigate the risk should the asset fail ahead of its forecast replacement date. For more details and data on the limitation and preferred network investment please refer to the attached System Limitation Report.

A demand side initiative to reduce the forecast maximum demand load by 5.2 MW at WBL zone substation would defer the need for this capital investment by one year.

14.2 Groups of Assets

This section discusses planned retirements and replacements for groups of assets.

14.2.1 Poles and towers

Powercor intends to replace poles and towers in various locations across the network in each year of the forward planning period. The number of poles and towers replaced each year is determined by condition assessments undertaken on each pole/tower inspected. The forecast number of poles/towers to be replaced in the coming 5 years is expected to increase in line with changes to poles management policies. Powercor has a range of poles in its network, including hardwood, steel and concrete, supporting different voltages of conductor. All towers on the network are steel lattice structures.

Poles and towers are assessed using the RCM methodology. The inspection frequency is based on priority and economic optimisation. This methodology was discussed in the previous chapter. Where the pole or tower is inspected and found to be defective, and a routine maintenance option is not viable to remedy the defect, it is necessary and prudent to replace the pole or tower.

14.2.2 Pole top structures

Pole top structures includes the following assets:

- Wood or steel cross arms are inspected at the same time as the pole using the RCM methodology discussed in the previous section.
- Insulators are generally made of porcelain, are inspected at the same time as the pole using the RCM methodology discussed in the previous section;
- Surge arrestors are attached to the pole and provide an alternate current path for the electricity to ground in the event of a lightning strike. These are generally replaced after they fail; otherwise they are replaced based upon age.
- Other pole top structure equipment include: fuses, dampers, armour rods, spreaders, brackets, etc. These are all inspected at the same time as the pole.
- EDO fuses in on SWER hybrid underground in electric line construction areas (ELCAs) are also being replaced by fault tamers as part of a program.

Powercor intends to replace pole top structures in various locations across its network in each year of the forward planning period. The number of pole top structures replaced each year is determined by condition assessments undertaken on each pole top structure inspected. The forecast number of pole top structures to be replaced in the coming 5 years is expected to increase in line with changes to pole management policies.

14.2.3 Switchgear

Switchgear can be classified as overhead or ground-mounted. Switchgear includes the following assets:

- Automatic circuit reclosers (**ACR**) interrupt fault current and automatically restore supply after a dead time in the event of a transient fault.
- Air-break switches (**ABS**) use air as an insulating medium to interrupt load current.
- Gas switches use SF₆ gas as an insulating medium to interrupt load current.
- Oil switches use mineral oil as an insulating medium to interrupt load current.
- Isolators use air as an insulating medium to interrupt load current.

Switchgear assets are replaced based on condition, which is monitored through routine maintenance and inspection. When a defect is found and it cannot be rectified through maintenance, a refurbishment or replacement of the asset is prudent.

The replacement need and timing are prioritised through risk and economic assessments. The location and the timing of the asset retirement is only determined when a defect is identified.

Powercor intends to replace most¹⁰ switchgear assets in each year of the forward planning period in line with historical volumes for most assets. Line mounted Air-break switches are now replaced with gas switches in place of cyclic maintenance or defect repair activities

¹⁰ All switchgear with the exception of line mounted Air-break switches

which is above the historical replacement volumes. This change has been implemented to address key issues such as operational delivery inefficiencies and inability to maintain the assets due to equipment obsolescence.

14.2.4 Overhead services

Overhead services, which are required to connect a customer supply point to the network are inspected at the same time as the pole and pole top structures using the same RCM methodology discussed in the previous sections.

Powercor intends to replace overhead services in various locations across its network in each year of the forward planning period. The number of overhead services replaced each year is determined by condition assessments undertaken on each overhead service inspected. The forecast number of overhead services to be replaced in the coming 5 years is expected to increase above the historic replacements due to deteriorated insulation associated with dogbone terminations and a project implemented during 2019 to detect, assess and replace services where the neutral is suspect, utilising AMI meter analysis to address safety issues.

14.2.5 Overhead conductor

Overhead conductors are an integral part of the distribution system. Overhead conductors may be bare or covered and are made of aluminium, copper and galvanised steel.

Conductor replacements are based on two methodologies:

- through inspection, asset failures or defect reports; and
- proactively through risk-assessment using health indices.

Powercor plans to replace sections of overhead conductors each year over the forward planning period. The location and timing of conductor replacement will be determined based on condition assessments and risk. The forecast number of sections of overhead conductor to be replaced in the coming 5 years is in line with historic replacements. As data and modelling improves, a better understanding of the location and timing of the conductor replacement at the planning stage of the proactive replacement programme may be available in the future.

14.2.6 Underground cable

Underground sub-transmission cables are performance monitored and condition assessed by a scheduled cyclic testing program. Cables found by the test program to be in unacceptable condition are generally repaired as the issue is normally location specific or the result of damage by third parties. Sections of cable may be replaced from time to time on an unplanned basis as a response to identified defects or damage. No sub-transmission cables are planned for replacement due to condition in the next 5 year period.

HV and LV Underground cables are performance monitored and condition assessed when the cable is exposed for augmentation works or defect repairs. Cables identified in unacceptable condition are prioritised for replacement using an economic assessment of risk associated with the identified defect.

Powercor's planned volumes for underground cable replacements over the forward planning period are in line with historic volumes.

14.2.7 Other underground assets

Other underground assets include the following:

- Cable-head terminations, which are the termination of an underground cable.
- Distribution service pits are the point where the underground service connects to the customer premises, typically of concrete and plastic construction. Improvements to inspections are planned to be implemented in 2021 which will most likely lead to an increase in repair and replacement volumes in the forward planning period.
- Low-voltage pillars are typically concrete or steel, where low voltage underground cables are terminated.
- Services (underground), which are required to connect a customer supply point (underground pit) to the network, are replaced based on condition when inspected or through defect reports.

Underground assets replacements are prioritised using an assessment of risk associated with the identified defect. The timing of replacement is determined by the risk assessment.

14.2.8 Distribution plant

Powercor plans to replace distribution plant assets each year in the forward planning period. Distribution plant assets include a variety of assets listed below:

- HV Circuit breakers (22kV and 11kV) which are required to interrupt load or fault current are replaced based on the CBRM results, as explained in the previous chapter.
- Distribution substation transformers include indoor, kiosk, ground mounted (compound) or pole mounted types. Transformers are replaced based on condition, as identified through schedule inspections and defect reporting. Replacement prioritisation is determined by conducting risk and economic assessments. Some older kiosk transformers with integral oil RMU's are also being replaced due to safety concerns.
- Pole top capacitors are attached to the network to improve power factor, usually on longer lines. These are replaced based on condition when inspected or through defect reports. Replacement prioritisation is determined by conducting risk and economic assessments.
- Ring Main Units, which are banked switching units that enable switching between three or more underground cables, are replaced based on condition identified by scheduled inspection and defect reports, and then prioritised through risk and economic assessment.
- Earthing cables, which are required as one measure to prevent de-energised assets from becoming energised in the event of insulation breakdown or contact with live assets, are replaced following an inspection and/or condition monitoring.
- Regulators, which adjust voltage levels according to measured network dynamics, are replaced based on condition; with a dedicated program to remove obsolete regulators

i.e. regulators that are no longer supported by the manufacturer support and no longer have spares available.

- Combination switches, which are a high voltage switch and fuse combined, are replaced based on age with prioritisation of replacement determined by economic and risk assessment, given that neither the condition nor performance can readily be measured.

The location and the timing of the replacement of distribution plant assets are determined at the time of inspection and detection of defect, or upon failure of the asset.

14.2.9 Zone substation switchyard equipment

Powercor plans to replace zone substation switchyard equipment each year in the forward planning period. Zone substation switchyard equipment assets include a variety of assets listed below:

- Surge arrestors, which are required to protect primary plant from voltage surges, are generally replaced after they fail. They can also be replaced based on age and condition, or opportunistically where other asset replacements take place at the zone substation.
 - As part of our REFCL installation programme, we are planning to replace surge arrestors at Bendigo terminal station (**BETS**), Charlton (**CTN**), Bendigo (**BGO**), Ballarat South (**BAS**), Ballarat North (**BAN**), Geelong (**GL**) Corio (**CRO**), Koroit (**KRT**), Stawell (**STL**), Waurin Ponds (**WPD**), Hamilton (**HTN**), Ararat (**ART**), Merbein (**MBN**) and Terang (**TRG**) before the end of 2023.
- Busses, which allow multiple connections to a single source of supply, are usually replaced as part of the associated zone substation equipment being replaced, e.g. 22kV busses usually form part of modular switchboards and thus will be included as part of switchboard replacements.
- Joints, terminations and connector assets are replaced on inspection, or as part of the replacement of the assets they are connected to.
- Steel structures, which are required to hold energised assets in place, are replaced based on inspection and observed condition.

The location and the timing of the replacement of zone substation assets are determined at the time of inspection or upon identification of defects.

14.2.10 Protection and control room equipment and instrumentation

Protection and control systems are designed to detect the presence of power system faults and/or other abnormal operating conditions and to automatically isolate the faulted network by the opening of appropriate high voltage circuit breakers. Powercor plans to replace protection and control room equipment and instruments each year over the forward planning period. Volumes are expected to be similar to historic volumes. This includes the following assets:

- Protection relays are replaced based on age and/or economic assessment of risk.

- Powercor's relay replacement program focusses on electro-mechanical, electronic and end of life digital protection relays. The risk profile of these types of relays is forecast to significantly increase as the technology is approaching end of life.
- Relays will be replaced at the following zone substations over the forward planning period: AC, AL, BMH, BGO, CHA, CME, COB, CPL, CRO, DDL, ECA, FNS, GCY, GL, HTN, KRT, KYM, LV, LVN, MLN, MDA, MNA, NHL, OYN, PLD, RVL, SA, SHL, SHN, SSE, STL and WBE
- As the need to replace the assets will be reassessed on a risk-based approach closer to the replacement period, the date of replacement is unknown at time of writing.
- Capacitor Bank controllers (or VAR controllers), are usually run-to-failure and as such it is prudent for Powercor to maintain asset spares.
- Battery banks are replaced based on the results of condition tests.
- Voltage/Current transformers: are usually run-to-failure and as such it is prudent for Powercor to maintain asset spares.

Aside from the proactive replacement of protection relays at zone substation locations, the timing and the location of the replacement of other assets are determined through routine inspection and detection of defects, or upon asset failure.

14.3 Planned asset de-ratings

Powercor has no planned asset deratings in the forward planning period.

14.4 Committed projects

This section sets out a list of committed investments worth \$2 million or more to address urgent and unforeseen network issues.

Powercor does not have any committed projects to address urgent and unforeseen network issues.

14.5 Timing of proposed asset retirements/ replacements and deratings

Powercor are now also required detailed information on its asset retirements / replacement projects and deratings in its DAPR as described above. The timing of these may change subject to updated asset information, portfolio optimisation and realignment with other network projects, or reprioritisation of options to mitigate the deteriorating condition of the assets.

Powercor have made improvements to the risk assessment quantification. These changes primarily involve a refinement of the estimated failure probability for transformers, taking into account failures and replacements, and the inclusion of analysis at a substation level, considering common-cause failure risk for substations with identical assets. As a result,

some asset retirements have been deferred, and other future retirements have been brought forward.

Table 14.5 below summarises the change in timing of proposed major network retirements/replacements.

Table 14.5 Changes in timing of asset retirements / replacements and deratings

Proposed Asset Replacement	2019 DAPR	2020 DAPR
Inglewood (IWD) Zone Substation Regulator	2024	2023
Robinvale (RVL) Zone Substation Transformer 2	2024	2023
Koroit (KRT) Zone Substation CB D 66kV Circuit Breaker	2021	2024
Portland (PLD) Zone Substation CB B 66kV Circuit Breaker	2023	2025
Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation OYN1 22kV Circuit Breaker	Not included	2025
Ouyen (OYN) Zone Substation OYN5 22kV Circuit Breaker	2021	2025
Cobram East (CME) Zone Substation CME21 22kV Circuit Breaker	2022	2021
Hamilton (HTN) Zone Substation	2020	Removed

15 Regulatory Tests

This section sets out information about large network projects that Powercor has assessed, or is in the process of assessing, using the Regulatory Investment Test for Distribution (**RIT-D**) during the forward planning period.

This chapter also sets out possible RIT-D assessments that Powercor may undertake in the future.

Large network investments are assessed using the RIT-D process. The RIT-D relates to investments where the cost of the most expensive credible option is more than \$5 million. The RIT-D has historically been used for large augmentation projects, and was extended to include replacement projects from 18 September 2017.

Transitional arrangements apply for the introduction of the RIT-D for replacement projects where the following projects are excluded:

- replacement projects that have been “committed” to by a distributor on or prior to 30 January 2018; and
- the second tranche of Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (**REFCLs**), in so far as they relate to replacement.

The excluded projects are listed in this chapter, as well as published on our website. There is no material impact on connection charges and distribution use of system charges that have been estimated.

15.1 Current regulatory tests

There was a regulatory test commenced by Powercor in 2018 for the REFCL Tranche 3 program.

Powercor has published a determination under clause 5.17.4(c) of the National Electricity Rules that there will not be a non-network option that is a potential credible option, or that forms a significant part of a credible option. The identified need is to comply with the Victorian Government’s requirement that REFCLs will be installed to meet the performance standard specified in the Regulations.

The RIT-D is for installation of REFCLs at the following zone substations for Tranche three by 1 May 2023 as shown in table 15.1 below.

Table 15.1 Current RIT-D projects

Project name	Description	Scheduled completion date
REFCL Tranche 3 Program	Installation of REFCLs at Hamilton (HTN) zone substation	1 May 2023
	Installation of REFCLs at Koroit (KRT) zone substation	
	Installation of REFCLs at Merbein (MBN) zone substation	
	Installation of REFCLs at Stawell (STL) zone substation	
	Installation of REFCLs at Waurn Ponds (WPD) zone substation	
	Construction of a new REFCL-protected zone substation at Torquay (TQY)	
	Construction of a new REFCL-protected zone substation at Gheringhap (GHP)	

There were no credible non-network options found to address the identified need, which is to comply with the Regulations. Also Powercor has not identified any other network options that would comply with the regulations.

15.2 Future regulatory investment tests

The following projects are planned for future Regulatory Tests in the period 2020 through to 2024.

Table 15.2 Future RIT-D projects

Project name	Description	Scheduled start date
Bacchus Marsh (BMH) zone substation	Install 3 rd transformer, circuit breakers, 66kV/22kV works and control room	Jan 2023
Tarneit (TRT) zone substation	Establish new Tarneit zone substation and offload WBE, LV and TNA	Jan 2022
Winchelsea (WIN) REFCL and 3 rd transformer	Upgrade to Winchelsea to maintain ongoing REFCL compliance	Feb 2024
Woodend (WND) REFCL and 3 rd transformer	Upgrade to Woodend to maintain ongoing REFCL compliance	Feb 2023
Eaglehawk (EHK) REFCL and 3 rd transformer	Upgrade to Eaglehawk to maintain ongoing REFCL compliance	Feb 2024
Ballarat West (BAW) zone substation	Establish new Ballarat West zone substation and associated 66kV/22kV works to maintain ongoing REFCL compliance in the Ballarat area	Feb 2024

15.3 Excluded projects

The table below provides a list of the excluded projects from the RIT-D under the transitional arrangements relating to the extension of the RIT-D to replacement projects.

Table 15.3 Excluded RIT-D projects

Project name	Description	Scheduled completion date
Installation of REFCLs at Ballarat North (BAN) zone substation	Refurbishment and replacement works at the zone substation and on 22kV high voltage network to allow the operation of a REFCL. Clause 11.99.6 of the NER exempts replacement projects from the RIT-D relating to the Powercor program to install REFCLs.	1 May 2021
Installation of REFCLs at Ballarat South (BAS) zone substation		1 May 2021
Installation of REFCLs at Bendigo Terminal Station (BETS)		1 May 2021
Installation of REFCLs at Bendigo (BGO) zone substation		1 May 2021
Installation of REFCLs at Charlton (CTN) zone substation)		1 May 2021
Installation of REFCLs at Ararat (ART) zone substation		1 May 2021
Installation of REFCLs at Terang (TRG) zone substation		1 May 2021

16 Network Performance

This section sets out Powercor's performance against its targets for reliability and quality of supply, and its plans to improve performance over the forward planning period.

16.1 Reliability measures and performance

Powercor is subject to a range of reliability measures and standards.

The key reliability of supply metrics to which Powercor is incentivised under the Service Target Performance Incentive Scheme (**STPIS**) are:

- System average interruption duration index (**SAIDI**): Unplanned SAIDI calculates the sum of the duration of each unplanned sustained customer interruption (in minutes) divided by the total number of distribution customers. It does not include momentary interruptions that are one minute or less;
- System average interruption frequency index (**SAIFI**): Unplanned SAIFI calculates the total number of unplanned sustained customer interruptions divided by the total number of distribution customers. It does not include momentary interruptions that are one minute or less. SAIFI is expressed per 0.001 interruptions; and
- Momentary average interruption frequency index (**MAIFI**): calculates the total number of momentary interruptions divided by the total number of distribution customers (where the distribution customers are network or per feeder based, as appropriate).

The reliability of supply parameters are segmented into urban, rural short and rural feeder types.

The table below shows the reliability service targets set by the AER for Powercor in its Distribution Determination in May 2016.¹¹ Powercor reported to the AER its 2019 performance against those targets in the 2019 calendar year in its Regulatory Information Notice (**RIN**), and these figures are included in the table. In addition, Powercor has also forecast its outturn performance for the 2020 calendar year, based on actual performance for the period from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020, and then projected forward taking into account seasonal factors.

¹¹ AER, Powercor Australia Limited, Distribution determination 2016–2020, Final, May 2016.

Table 16.1 Reliability targets and performance

Feeder	Parameter	AER target (2016-20)	2019 performance	2020 forecast performance (at 30 Sep 2020)
Urban	SAIDI	83.111	66.415	61.919
	SAIFI	1.047	0.851	0.740
	MAIFI	1.184	0.986	1.254
Rural Short	SAIDI	113.191	100.764	113.798
	SAIFI	1.357	1.352	1.228
	MAIFI	2.998	2.166	2.573
Rural Long	SAIDI	273.091	240.800	251.952
	SAIFI	2.369	2.293	1.953
	MAIFI	5.401	3.634	4.985

In 2019, Powercor achieved its targets.

In 2020, Powercor is forecast to achieve its targets for all parameters except the unplanned SAIDI for Rural Short lines and MAIFI for Urban lines.

Actual network performance is also often influenced by external events such as storms, heat, flood, or third party damage which may be outside of Powercor's control. The influence of these factors on network performance can also vary significantly from one year to the next.

16.1.1 Corrective reliability action undertaken or planned

Actual network reliability performance is the result of many factors and reflects the outcomes of numerous programs and practices right across the network. To achieve long term and sustainable reliability improvements, Powercor continues to refine and target existing asset management programs as well as reliability specific works.

The processes and actions which Powercor undertakes to sustain reliability include:

- undertaking the various routine asset management programs, including:
 - inspection of nearly 180,000 poles and pole tops;
 - maintenance and replacement programs for overhead and underground lines, primary plant (for example, Powercor replaced a number of circuit breakers, 66kV transformer bushings and current transformers) and secondary systems (such as replacement of ageing protection relays at zone substations);
 - Implementation of enhanced monitoring and replacement program of capacitive voltage transformers in zone subs to provide improved safety and reliability.
- deployment of portable auxiliary cooling fans at several substations to assist in cooling heavily loaded transformers;

-
- targeted installation of smart technologies to improve network monitoring, control and restoration of supply including intelligent circuit reclosers, gas switches and line fault indicators at strategic locations;
 - targeted reduction of the exposure to faults on the distribution network by using:
 - thermography programs to detect over-heated connections;
 - Partial Discharge detection program for indoor 22kV switchgear in Zone subs. including several continuous on line monitoring systems
 - vegetation management programs to improve line clearances;
 - targeted lines for bark inspections such as in the Otways and Macedon ranges;
 - animal and bird mitigation measures to reduce the risk of 'flash-overs';
 - targeted insulator washing and pole-top fire mitigation to reduce the risk of pole fires; and
 - dehydration of power transformer.
 - use of innovative solutions such as auxiliary power generation or by-pass cables to maintain supply where practicable;
 - trialling of new technologies such as fuse savers to assess and evaluate any improvement in the reliability outcomes
 - conduct fault investigations of significant outages and plant failures to understand the root cause, in order to prevent re-occurrences;
 - undertake asset failure trend analysis and outage cause analysis to identify any emerging asset management issues and to mitigate those through enhancing the related asset management plans, maintenance policies or technical standards.

Evaluation of the 2019 reliability improvement initiatives should be considered in the context of the longer term goals stipulated above and the volatility caused by uncontrollable events such as severe storms and the effect of third party events.

16.2 Quality of supply measures and standards

The main quality of supply measures that Powercor control are:

- voltage; and
- harmonics.

16.2.1 Voltage

Voltage requirements are governed by the Electricity Distribution Code and the NER.

The NER essentially requires that Powercor adheres to the 61000.3 series of Australian and New Zealand Standards.

In addition, the Electricity Distribution Code requires that Powercor must maintain nominal voltage levels at the point of supply to the customer's electrical installation in accordance

with the Electricity Safety (Network Assets) Regulations 1999 or, if these regulations do not apply to the distributor, at one of the following standard nominal voltages:

- a) 230V;
- b) 400V;
- c) 460V;
- d) 6.6kV;
- e) 11kV;
- f) 22kV; or
- g) 66kV.

The Electricity Safety (Network Assets) Regulations 1999 were revoked on 8 December 2009 by regulation 104 (Schedule 1) of the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 2009. Therefore the standard nominal voltages specified in the Code apply.

Variations from the standard nominal voltages listed above are permitted to occur in accordance with the following table with the exception of REFCL areas:

Table 16.2 Permissible voltage variations

Standard nominal voltage variations				
Voltage Level in kV	Voltage Range for Time Periods			Impulse Voltage
	Steady State	Less than 1 minute	Less than 10 seconds	
< 1.0	AS 61000.3.100 ¹²			6kV peak
	+13% -10%		Phase to Earth +50% -100% Phase to Phase +20% -100%	
1-6.6	± 6% (± 10% Rural Areas)	±10%*	Phase to Earth +80% -100% Phase to Phase +20% -100%	60kV peak
11				95kV peak
22				150kV peak
66	±10%	±15%	Phase to Earth +50% -100% Phase to Phase +20% -100%	325kV peak

¹² The voltage range for time period less than 1 minute and 10 seconds do not apply to AS 61000.3.100.

* In REFCL areas while the REFCL is in operation, the 22kV phase to earth voltages may equal the phase to phase voltage for periods greater than 1 minute.

As required by the Electricity Distribution Code, Powercor uses best endeavours to minimise the frequency of voltage variations listed above for periods of less than one minute.

Powercor is able to measure voltage variations at zone substations, as many have power quality meters installed. This enables Powercor to address any systemic voltage issues. The table below provides the number of instances of voltage variations at Powercor zone substations in the 2019 calendar year, although many of these instances would have occurred from abnormalities or transients in the system.

Table 16.3 Zone substation voltage variations in 2019

Voltage variations	Forecast number of occurrences
Steady state (zone substation)	3333
One minute (zone substation)	109
10 seconds (zone substation) Min<0.7	962
10 seconds (zone substation) Min<0.8	706
10 seconds (zone substation) Min<0.9	1099

Powercor responds quickly to investigate and resolve voltage issues. The issues may be identified through the system monitoring undertaken by Powercor or as a result of customer complaints. The Supply Quality team may subsequently carry out projects to address concerns relating to voltages.

The solutions that Powercor may adopt include:

- installation of voltage regulators which will bring voltage levels at customer connection points within the applicable requirement;
- the upgrade of existing distribution transformers, or the installation of new distribution transformers, to increase the ability of the network to meet customers' demand for electricity and improve voltage performance;
- replacing small sized conductors with large conductors in order to improve the voltage performance; and
- installation of additional reactive power compensation, such as capacitor banks, to improve voltage performance.

Powercor may also identify issues with voltage following applications from potential "disturbing load" customers, such as an embedded generator or a large industrial customer, to connect to the network. System studies are carried out on a case-by-case basis to identify voltage or harmonic constraints relating to proposals, with recommendations for corrective action provided to the party seeking to connect.

16.2.2 Performance of Low Voltage Network

Under the requirements of the Section 3.5 of the Victorian Electricity Distribution Code (the Code) this planning report is required to include all of the information provided in Schedule 1 of the Code.

Due to legacy configuration of AMI meters Powercor is not able to provide a 5-year rolling history of 10-minute interval voltage information observed at the low voltage network the time of publication of this report. Powercor is making changes to systems and processes which will be completed at the end of 2021 to enable the collection of data required to meet the requirement moving forwards. Until the data is available Powercor will provide 15-minute data. In the year where 10-minute data becomes available the reporting will be modified so that reports moving forward contain the 10-minute data.

The Powercor dataset provided is the average of all customers connected to the relevant feeder and regulator section. The averages are calculated by taking the average across all customers for each 15 minute block within each day of the year. Those 15 minute averages are then grouped into the season and time period and averaged for the report.

Powercor's data can be found by accessing the link shown below and searching for LV voltage reports:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/UaPnYI6yeV>

For avoidance of any doubt, blanks in the data reflect changes in the network that cause a feeder to be out of service for an entire quarter. These changes include but are not limited to:

- Establishment of a new zone substation
- Decommissioning of an existing zone substation
- Long duration (3 months) transfers while the network is being re-arranged and then returned to normal state

16.2.3 Harmonics

Voltage harmonic requirements are governed by the Electricity Distribution Code and the NER.

The NER essentially requires that Powercor adheres to the 61000.3 series of Australian and New Zealand Standards.

Powercor uses the Indicative Planning Levels for Harmonic Voltages as provided in Table 2 of the Australian Standard AS/NZS 61000.3.6:2001 and given below:

Table 16.4 Voltage harmonic distortion compatibility levels

Odd Harmonics (non-multiple of 3)			Odd Harmonics (multiple of 3)			Even Harmonics		
Order h	Harmonic Voltage (%)		Order h	Harmonic Voltage (%)		Order h	Harmonic Voltage (%)	
	6.6-22kV	66-220 kV		6.6-22kV	66-220 kV		6.6-22kV	66-220 kV
5	5	2.0	3	4	2.0	2	1.6	1.5
7	4	2.0	9	1.2	1.0	4	1	1.0
11	3	1.5	15	0.3	0.3	6	0.5	0.5
13	2.5	1.5	21	0.2	0.2	8	0.4	0.4
17	1.6	1.0	>21	0.2	0.2	10	0.4	0.4
19	1.2	1.0				12	0.2	0.2
23	1.2	0.7				>12	0.2	0.2
25	1.2	0.7						
>25	0.2 + 0.5 (25/h)	0.2 + 0.5 (25/h)						
Total harmonic voltage distortion contribution at 6.6-22kV: 6.5% and 66-220 kV: 3%								
Non-integer harmonic voltage contribution: 0.2%								

Powercor responds quickly to investigate and resolve voltage issues. The issues may be identified through the power quality meters that Powercor has installed to monitor the quality of supply or as a result of customer complaints. The Supply Quality team may subsequently carry out projects to address concerns relating to voltages.

Where the voltage harmonics are measured to be consistently outside of the required levels, Powercor will investigate and resolve the issue. The solutions that Powercor may adopt include:

- alter the switching sequencing of the network equipment to reduce the voltage harmonic distortions;
- replacing small sized conductors with large conductors in order to improve the voltage harmonic performances ; and
- installation of harmonic filtering equipment to improve voltage harmonic performance.

Powercor may also identify issues with harmonics following applications from potential “disturbing load” customers, such as an embedded generator or a large industrial customer, to connect to the network. System studies are carried out on a case-by-case basis to identify

voltage or harmonic constraints relating to proposals, with recommendations for corrective action provided to the party seeking to connect.

17 Embedded Generation and Demand Management

This section sets out information on embedded generation as well as demand management activities during 2020 and over the forward planning period.

17.1 Embedded generation connections

The table below provides a quantitative summary of the connection enquires under chapter 5 of the NER and applications to connect EG units received in 2019.

Table 17.1 Summary of embedded generation connections

Description	Quantity (> 5MW)
Connection enquires under 5.3A.5	29
Applications to connect received under 5.3A.9	0
The average time taken to complete application to connect in days	N/A

Key issues to connect embedded generators to Powercor's network include:

- fault levels;
- thermal capacity;
- voltage fluctuations under various contingency scenarios;
- harmonics and flicker issues for large-scale generator as a result of limitations of power quality allocations at terminal stations and consequential allocations to wind and solar farms leading to tight design criteria.

Due to constraints associated with the North West Murray Transmission Network low system strength, large generator connections have been delayed across the majority of the West of Victoria.

17.2 Non-network options and actions

Powercor actively seeks opportunities to promote non-network alternatives for both general and project-specific purposes. For 2019, the following details some of Powercor activities:

- Powercor has communicated with providers of demand management and embedded generation services to explore potential non-network options;
- Powercor is presently involved with the development of a number of embedded generation projects at various stages. Powercor has recently commissioned 258.8 MW of embedded generation over five installations and there are 150 projects totalling 2835 MW in development;
- Powercor monitors industry developments and engages with providers of demand management and smart network technologies;
- For the summer of 2020/21, Powercor will bid into the Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader Market (**RERT**) using their Smart Meter Voltage Management (**SMVM**) scheme when called upon by AEMO. SMVM is an improvement upon the current method of lowering the voltage set points at the zone substation, which in turn lowers the amount of Power (MW) supplied to the network and reduces demand on peak days.
- In the second half of 2020 Powercor initiated the 'Energy Partner' project to reduce demand caused by Air-conditioning load during peak periods on specific distribution substations across the Powercor area. Powercor is running the program again in 2021 and will be targeting distribution substation constraints. Powercor hopes to engage and educate the local community on Demand Response in addition to better understanding market drivers.

Powercor has also put forward a Digital Networks program as part of the 2020 price submission. Delivery of the Digital Networks program will help Powercor meet customer expectations and ensure value for customers through a number of projects. These projects are centred on having the tools and data available to optimise use of network capacity for both load and generation, while maintaining supply quality for customers.

Over the forward planning period, Powercor intends to continue to consider demand side options via its Demand Side Engagement Strategy.

17.3 Demand side engagement strategy and register

Powercor updated the published Demand Side Engagement Strategy in July 2019. The strategy is designed to assist non-network providers in understanding Powercor's framework and processes for assessing demand management options. It also details the consultation process with non-network providers. Further information regarding the strategy and processes is available from:

<https://www.powercor.com.au/our-services/demand-management/>

Powercor have also published their Demand Side Engagement Interested Parties Register. The register was established in mid-2013. It currently allows interested parties to provide contact details and email address data, but will be enhanced in the near future to become an

online form portal. To register as a Demand Management Interested Party, please email the following:

- DMInterestedParties@powercor.com.au

In 2020, no formal submissions from non-network providers were received however there are a total of 120 registered entities, an increase of 8 from 2019.

18 Information Technology and Communication Systems

This section discusses the investments we have undertaken in 2020, or plan to undertake over the forward planning period 2020-2024, relating to information technology (IT) and communications systems.

18.1 Security Program

As new security threats emerge and grow over time, we keep investing in our cyber capabilities so we can continue protecting our network and our customers. Our ongoing program of works introduces increasingly sophisticated processes and systems that align with our commitment to proactively identify security threats and reduce security weaknesses in the organisation. Over the past twelve months a significant investment has been made to refresh our Cyber security strategy, program of works and operating model.

In early 2020, we refreshed our Cyber security strategy and presented a view of where we felt there were further opportunities to improve the way in which we manage our Cyber security risks. A three-year program of works was developed that would enable us to achieve our risk targets through the delivery of targeted initiatives addressing a broad range of capabilities. This strategy has now been approved by our executive team.

As a result, a significant program of works was delivered in the first half of 2020 to improve the state of a broad range of Cyber security controls that allow us to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from the possibility of a Cyber security breach impacting our OT (Operating Technology) network. The effectiveness of those controls has been independently validated through third party penetration testing and assurance.

Our current Cybersecurity strategy and program will be fully delivered over the 2021-2024 period. During the forward planning period for this DAPR we will also continue to align our security initiatives with relevant industry standards such as AESCSF, NIST and authorities such as the ASD to ensure that controls developed as part of our strategy are consistent recognised Australian and International best practices.

Furthermore, we will undertake security initiatives through our best practice program focusing on the capabilities of identify, detect, monitor, protect and governing our security program. This program seeks to maintain our current capability and proactively make the organisation more secure and in harmony with integrated systems within our IT landscape.

18.2 Currency

We routinely undertake system currency upgrades across the IT landscape in line with vendor software release life cycles and support agreements. These refresh cycles are necessary to ensure system performance and reliability are maintained and that the functional and technical aspects of our systems remain up to date.

In 2020 we completed several activities including our Cintellate upgrade, which is our key Health and Safety application. This program updated our Cintellate to version 2019.2 and the mobile device (iPhone/iPad) version of the application called ROAM. The upgrade will improve access to field workforce, improve usability, improve ability to meet regulatory reporting requirements and new workflow and dashboard with open actions, incidents and hazards assigned to individuals, enabling incident investigation details to be entered from the field.

During the forward planned period for this DAPR we will maintain the currency of the systems which manage our network (i.e. operational technology) such as the geospatial information system (**GIS**), outage management systems (**OMS**), SCADA and distribution management system (**DMS**). Maintaining currency of these systems is critical to maintaining the safe, reliable, secure and efficient delivery of network services.

We will also maintain the currency of other systems including our market systems which support the provision of energy data to market, business intelligence and warehousing, telephony and enterprise market systems. Our customers view reliability, affordability and the privacy of their data as top priorities – maintaining currency of our systems alongside our cyber security measures help ensure these objectives are met.

18.3 Compliance

We are focused on ensuring that, as regulated businesses, our IT systems support all regulatory, statutory, market and legal requirements for operating in the National Electricity Market (**NEM**). These obligations are regularly amended by various government bodies and regulators to ensure aptness in a changing energy market. Compliance is achieved via investment in systems, data, processes and analytics to provide the functionality and reporting capability to efficiently comply with statutory and regulatory obligations.

This year we have been continuing to implement 5-minute settlement, under which the settlement period for the electricity spot price is altered from 30 minutes to 5 minutes. This program will run through to December 2022 and includes enhancing storage to handle significantly more data, and changes to system architecture (e.g. Market Transaction System, Itron Enterprise Edition, CIS/OV, UIQ, Salesforce, SAP) as well as business and operational processes (e.g. billing, contract centres, reporting, network, AMI Operations and network analytics).

Phase 1 of five-minute settlement and global settlement commenced in September 2019 and detailed design was completed in May 2020. The program was subsequently paused and was remobilised in August 2020 allowing the design to be completed in October 2020. Phase 2 of our five-minute settlement program implementation began in November 2020 in order to ensure our AMI metering fleet is compliant by 01 December 2022 as mandated by the AEMC.

Alongside the five minute settlement program we are continuing to deliver the global settlement program. The global settlement amendments change the differential treatment of the Local Retailer and will spread the “Unaccounted for Energy” (UFE) amongst all the retailers.

This year we have also set up a project team to make changes to the key market systems to ensure compliance with the updated procedures following the AEMC’s final rule to speed up the process for customers to transfer to a new electricity retailer. We are working towards a compliance date of 01 October 2021.

In our forward period we will begin a new regulatory period starting from 1 July 2021 and ending 30 June 2026. This new pricing period requires changes to Alternative Control Service (ACS), Quoted Services charges and tariffs. More specifically, we’ll need to update our systems for the following:

- Changes in service classifications and changes in ACS fee categories
- Update, in partnership with our vendors, relevant market systems to reflect the updated ACS charges and introduced new product codes approved by the AER
- Amend billing and market data system to address the changes in how the demand component is calculated for demand tariffs, including the addition of seasons and a summer incentive demand component
- Amendments to residential and small business to change from Australian Eastern Standard time to local time.
- Closure of tariffs and mass migration of businesses and customers to new tariffs.

In the forward DAPR planning period, we will continue to implement compliance projects as these arise through rules changes by AEMC, ESC, ESV or AEMO procedures which impact our IT systems and processes. We are also continuing to make changes to system and data controls to ensure customer, employee and asset data is hosted in Australia.

18.4 Infrastructure

We have an ever-growing need to store and recall data as well as to support applications, processes and functions within our IT systems. To support this, we must refresh our IT infrastructure to meet technical currency requirements and proactively manage the maintenance of the IT infrastructure to meet service level requirements.

During 2020, we established new applications supported by cloud-hosted infrastructure, while retaining our existing infrastructure on premise. In 2020 we also invested in uplifting our infrastructure to enable large scale remote working during the COVID-19 outbreak.

This included:

- Rollout of Microsoft Teams across all users to support collaboration while working remotely
- Replaced the CitiPower / Powercor Virtual Private Network (VPN) SSL remote access solution (for users with corporate laptops) with a new, more secure solution that had additional capacity over the old solution

- Doubled the capacity of the Citrix remote access solution for users unable to use the VPN SSL solution
- Doubled the capacity of the VPN internet links, and replaced the VPN internet routers with higher capacity devices
- Configured nearly all office users to work remotely (installing S/W, providing 1,400 tokens for two factor authentication, training)
- Deployed a process for patching user's personal computers when working from home to ensure that the organisation continued to be protected from cyber-attack;
- We are in the process of rolling out Office 365 to all users to enable more users to work from home without requiring a Citrix or VPN SSL remote access solution
- We are building a new Windows 10 image that includes an "always on" VPN solution to seamlessly connect to simplify the remote working experience

During the forward planning period for this DAPR, we will continue to upgrade our underlying infrastructure that supports the IT environments to ensure ongoing capacity, performance and availability to ensure continuity of IT service and a comprehensive business continuity capability. We will also undertake a program for gradually migrating some of our existing on-premise ICT infrastructure to the cloud hosting.

18.5 Customer Enablement

The customer engagement stream incorporates our response to ongoing changes and demands from our customers for greater access and greater choice in electricity services.

In 2020, we delivered on the following:

- Implemented digital fault reporting opening an entirely new channel for customers to report supply outages
- Implemented digital status tracking of customer projects providing more accurate and timely information to customers (Vista)
- Enhanced telephony software (Verint) to provide speech analytics for improved customer interactions
- Enhanced solar and embedded generations connections preapproval process by expanding the automated functionality up to 200kw and enhancing the accuracy of export approvals with an in-built voltage check (LGCA)
- Embedded our robotics process automations developed in late 2019 – reducing customer timeframes across a range of services including assessment of customer augmentation applications and subdivision requests
- Delivered improvements in line with customer feedback gathered through a refreshed customer surveying approach. The refreshed approach has been expanded across 9 of our most customer impacting services

- Improved online application and assessment tools for key niche processes such as High Load applications for oversize vehicle travel (presenting clearance dangers to our assets). Journey mapping identified problems that were addressed through enhanced system functionality, automated email receipts, standardised quoting and accompanying process streamlining

In the forward planning period for this DAPR we will improve how our customers access information, saving them time and effort through unifying existing customer portals and using artificial intelligence to provide better services. This will include consolidating our existing online portals into a unified access point with additional automated processes, one username and password and a single interface

We will also improve the planned outage notification process for our customers, including providing more options around the medium for communications to reflect our customer preferences. We will ensure our improvements, at a minimum, reflect the Essential Services Commission final decision on the Distribution Code requirements in relation to planned outages.

18.6 Becoming a More Digital Network

Distribution networks across the world are currently going through some of their largest transformations in history. These transformations are being driven by changing customer requirements, including increased participations in new demand management programs, and the expected take-up of EVs and batteries.

In 2020, we implemented Sensor IQ which set the foundations for our digital network initiatives we are planning for our forward period. The driver behind investing in SensorIQ was to reduce the risk of electric shocks to customers by being able to proactively detect and respond to faulty/loss of neutrals identified at customer premises. SensorIQ, which is a module within the UtilityIQ suite, provides the ability to collect voltage and current data at a rapid rate from every smart meter in the network. We can analyse this data to determine issues that indicate a neutral fault and quickly act on this to ensure the safety of the customer.

The use of this power quality data can be scaled for many other use cases that assist in the supply reliability or safety to the customer such as being able to dynamically control voltage on the electricity network or to detect asset deterioration for repair/replacement before it fails.

We are responding to the energy transformation underway by building a smarter network that predicts and manages power flows on the low voltage network, ensuring we can run the network safely and more efficiently in the face of changing demands such as electric vehicles. Specifically, our digital network initiatives include:

- Promoting the uptake of new technologies – by allowing us to monitor the impact of increasing EV penetration on demand and optimise charging away from peak times, we will facilitate the uptake of EVs while mitigating the risk of excess demand at peak times (preventing the need for augmentation)

- Optimising load control of customer appliances – optimising existing hot water load control and enabling new load control programs (e.g. air conditioners, pool pumps), including through utilising excess solar in the middle of the day
- Enhancing cost reflective pricing – analysing meter data to construct more effective time-of-use tariffs or demand response to reduce peak demand and improve overall utilisation of the distribution network
- Improving the equity of energy usage—identifying sites with bypass connections to reduce theft and monitoring variable unmetered supply to ensure energy usage is allocated fairly between customers
- Proactively managing asset failures—develop greater predictive capabilities for asset condition to better determine when assets will fail, resulting in less network investment
- Avoiding overblown fuses—improving phase balancing, which will allow greater asset utilisation and avoid replacing blown fuses
- Looking after vulnerable customers—more accurate mapping of customers to the network to ensure we keep more life support customers connected during outages and provide more accurate communications to customers on planned outages
- Keeping customers safe – improving the way we identify loss of neutral at customers' homes, which can pose major safety issues of electric shocks if left unchecked

18.7 Other Communication System Investments

To facilitate and maintain the protection, control and supervision of the network, we have continued to invest in Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (**SCADA**) and associated network communication and control equipment. This is used to monitor and control the distribution network assets, including zone substations and feeders.

In 2020, we have focused on the following:

- Modernising the communications network and transitioning protection and SCADA services from mostly aerial copper supervisory cables to optical fibre and private IP/Ethernet network infrastructure.
- Evaluation and trial of new 4G technology in readiness for the shutdown of the Telstra 3G network.
- Completion of Functional Testing, Field Trial and initial Stage of Narrowband Multipoint Radio replacement program across 38 links across Powercor from outer Melbourne to Mildura; in line with ACMA Mandate to retire all 900MHz Licenses.
- Upgrade of Six 500MHz Wideband Radio Links in South West and Western Victoria to replace aging 900MHz Radios.
- Continuing to invest in remote monitoring devices that leverage the new NB-IoT / 5G communication technologies deployed by telecommunication companies. This is proving to be a cost-effective method to remotely determine the condition of assets.

Over the forward planning period for this DAPR, our investment in SCADA will continue to increase, consistent with the growth and complexity of the network. Our SCADA expenditure will continue to modernise the communications network and ensuring adequate capability and capacity by installing larger systems.

In addition, we will continue to replace old communications systems with newer up-to-date systems. In some cases, this will be to address technical obsolescence where the manufacturer no longer supports the equipment, which we are no longer able to upgrade and there is a reduced pool of skilled workers able to maintain the system.

We will also modernise systems that rely on communications systems. For example, as Telstra is intending to switch off its 3G network, we will upgrade remote communications devices using the 3G network, such as Automatic Circuit Reclosers (**ACRs**) and remote controlled HV switches, to 4G and 5G.

19 Advanced Metering Infrastructure Benefits

This section discusses our use of advanced metering infrastructure (**AMI**) technology and how information generated by AMI is being used to better support life support customers, guide network planning and demand side response initiatives, and support network reliability initiatives.

19.1 Life support customers

We are using our AMI technology to service and support our vulnerable customers more effectively, allowing us to keep our communities safe.

We are keeping our customers and communities safe through being alerted to life support customers off supply more quickly through our AMI meters across our network. Our systems alert us if the supply to an AMI meter associated with a life support customer fails enabling us to more quickly resolve supply to the customer. This is key to our response planning for customers off-supply and allows us to understand the criticality of the disruption.

Our AMI technology also assists us in rotating load in emergencies. By rotating load, we can share energy among our customers in times of emergency. As such, we can prioritise life-support customers in these cases to ensure their power remains on.

We plan to continue to leverage AMI data and services to develop further benefits for our customers, including life support customers, over the forward planning period. An example of an initiative we are proposing under our Digital Network program which is reliant on our AMI includes more accurate mapping of customers to supplying LV transformers to help keep more life support customers connected during emergency load shedding and provide more accurate communications to customers of planned outages.

19.2 Network planning and demand side response

AMI technology has been critical in allowing us to innovate in the way we operate the network and deliver effective customer service. Visibility of the low voltage (**LV**) network has improved customer outcomes by lowering prices through more efficient network management, improved network safety and reliability outcomes and improved responsiveness to customer needs.

Our AMI meters provide us with the ability to improve safety by identifying neutral faults at customer premises. Our systems alert us if the supply to an AMI meter has a neutral fault enabling us to more quickly resolve it. The system identifies unsafe situations as they

develop, so corrective action can be initiated immediately. This is key for maintaining safety for our network and our customers.

Using Victorian AMI specification also allows us to manage voltages and prevent load shedding and blackouts on peak demand days.

Further the Victorian AMI is vital for enabling growth in distributed energy resources (**DER**) such as rooftop solar, batteries and electric vehicles. AMI provides us with the information to manage the network and accommodate the dynamic and less predictable energy flows that result from the increasing uptake of DER technologies by Victorians. We also use our AMI data for more accurate spatial demand forecasting, ensuring we optimise timing of network augmentation. Information from our AMI meters also assist us with detecting of customer with solar connections that are not registered as solar customers and/or are exporting more than they are contracted to export.

Our AMI technology is also an essential input into our Digital Network program which will enable more demand response initiatives through our proposed DER management system as well as enable us to accommodate more solar with the existing network capacity. We plan to continue to leverage AMI data and services to develop new benefits for customers over our DAPR forward planning period. The following are some examples of initiatives we are proposing under our Digital Network program which are reliant on our AMI:

- Promoting electric vehicle uptake – monitoring and optimising EV charging to understand and estimate the impact of increasing demand on the distribution network resulting from EV penetration
- Optimising load control of customer appliances – optimising existing hot water load control and enabling new load control programs (e.g. air conditioners and pool pumps), including through utilising excess solar in the middle of the day;
- Enhancing cost reflective incentives – analysing AMI interval data to construct more effective demand management incentives and time-of-use tariffs to reduce peak demand. This would improve overall utilisation of the distribution network, resulting in lower prices;
- Detecting electricity theft – identifying sites with bypass connections and reduction of theft, as well as identifying unregistered DER
- Proactively managing asset failures—resulting in fewer fire-starts and avoided replacement expenditure;
- Avoiding overblown fuses—improving phase balancing, which will allow greater asset utilisation (and therefore reduce augmentation) as well as avoiding replacement expenditure from blown fuses; and

19.3 Network reliability

AMI information is being used to support our network reliability measures. We have shorter outages due to earlier identification of faults and more efficient restoration. This is because AMI meters give us almost instant notification of customers going off supply. We receive immediate notification of outages from the AMI meter which feeds into our outage

management systems and automatically schedules and dispatches field crew to restore supply.

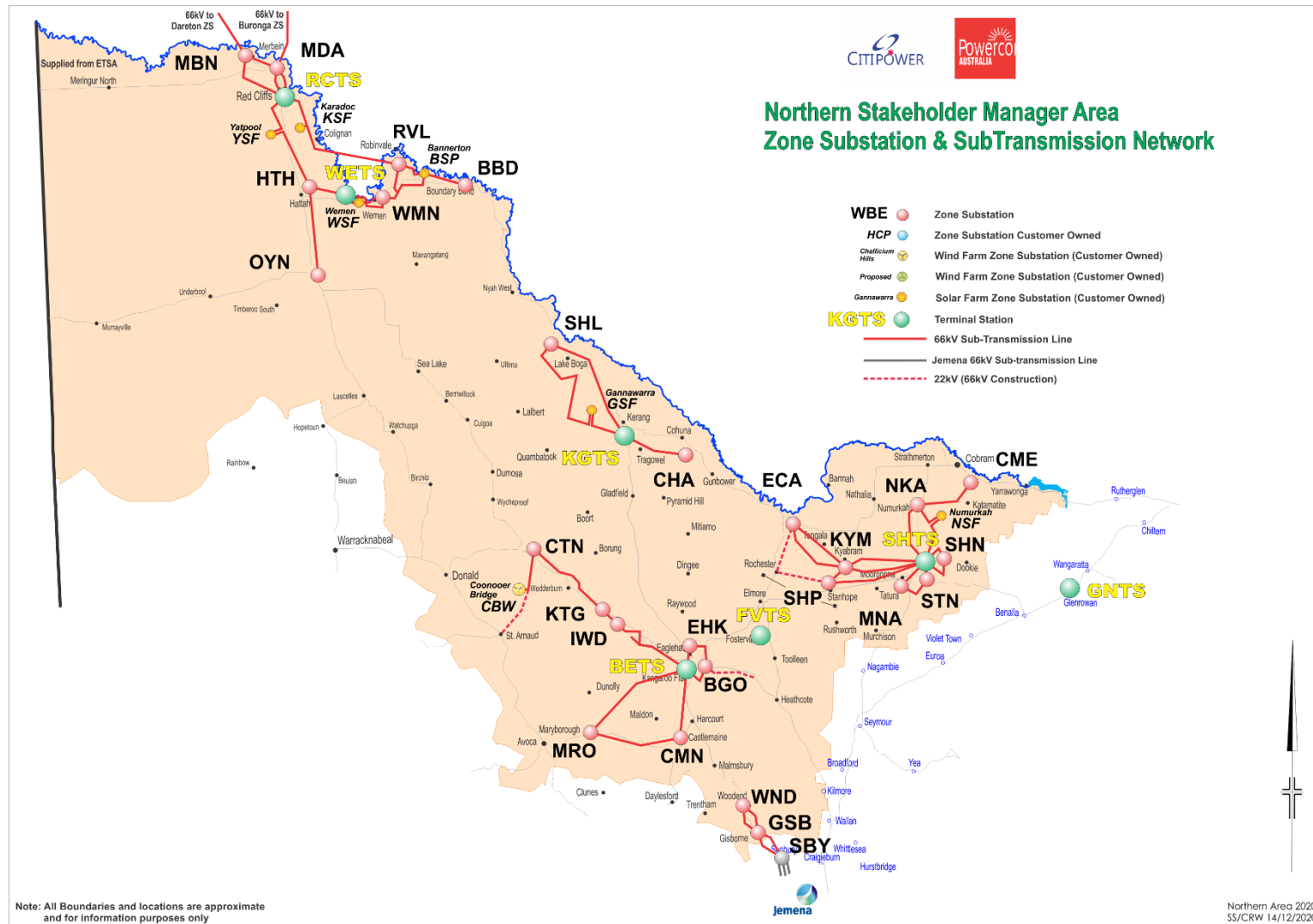
AMI meters also allow us to monitor basic power quality levels at individual customer premises. We have developed query and reporting tools to aggregate the data into meaningful sets of information and provide exception reporting to better manage the quality of supply to customers such as steady-state voltages, voltage sags and swells and phasing information. We have enhanced the AMI architecture to provide an engineering user interface for customer power quality information and to facilitate investigations into poor power quality performance. The interfaces also identify phase unbalance and other power quality performance issues (such as loose connections) to facilitate identifying the most appropriate mitigation solutions.

Our AMI technology also allows for supply capacity control enabling us to more effectively target load shedding to minimise supply impacts.

There is also improved quality of information and customer services during outages. We have developed an Interactive Voice Response service and SMS service which automatically advises customers of outages identified in a timely way through the last gasp AMI function. This has contributed to high levels of customer satisfaction with the service received. The quality of supply of information throughout the network is also enabling better network load profiling, identification of safety risks and voltage management.

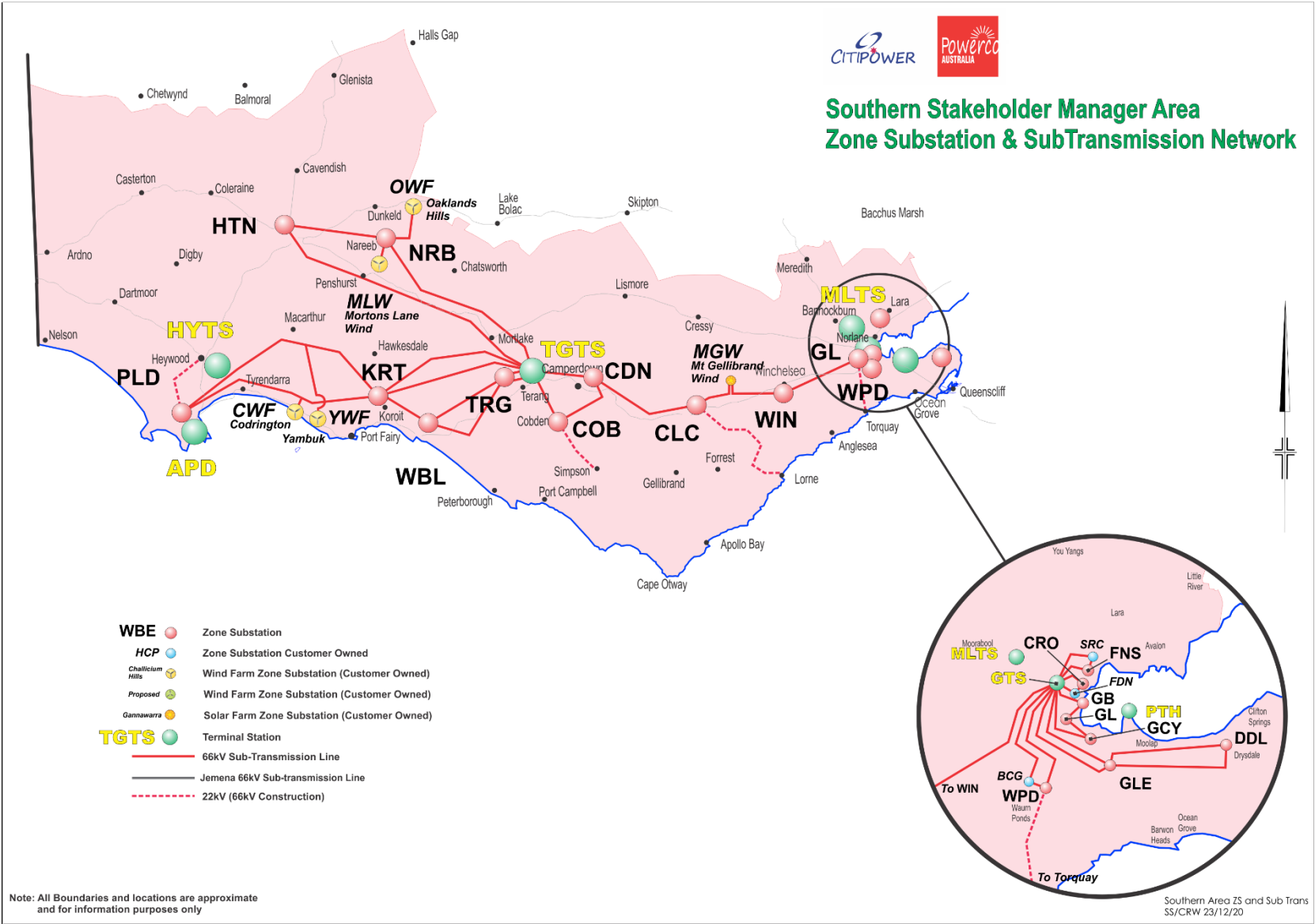
Appendix A Maps

A.1. Northern area zone substation and sub-transmission lines



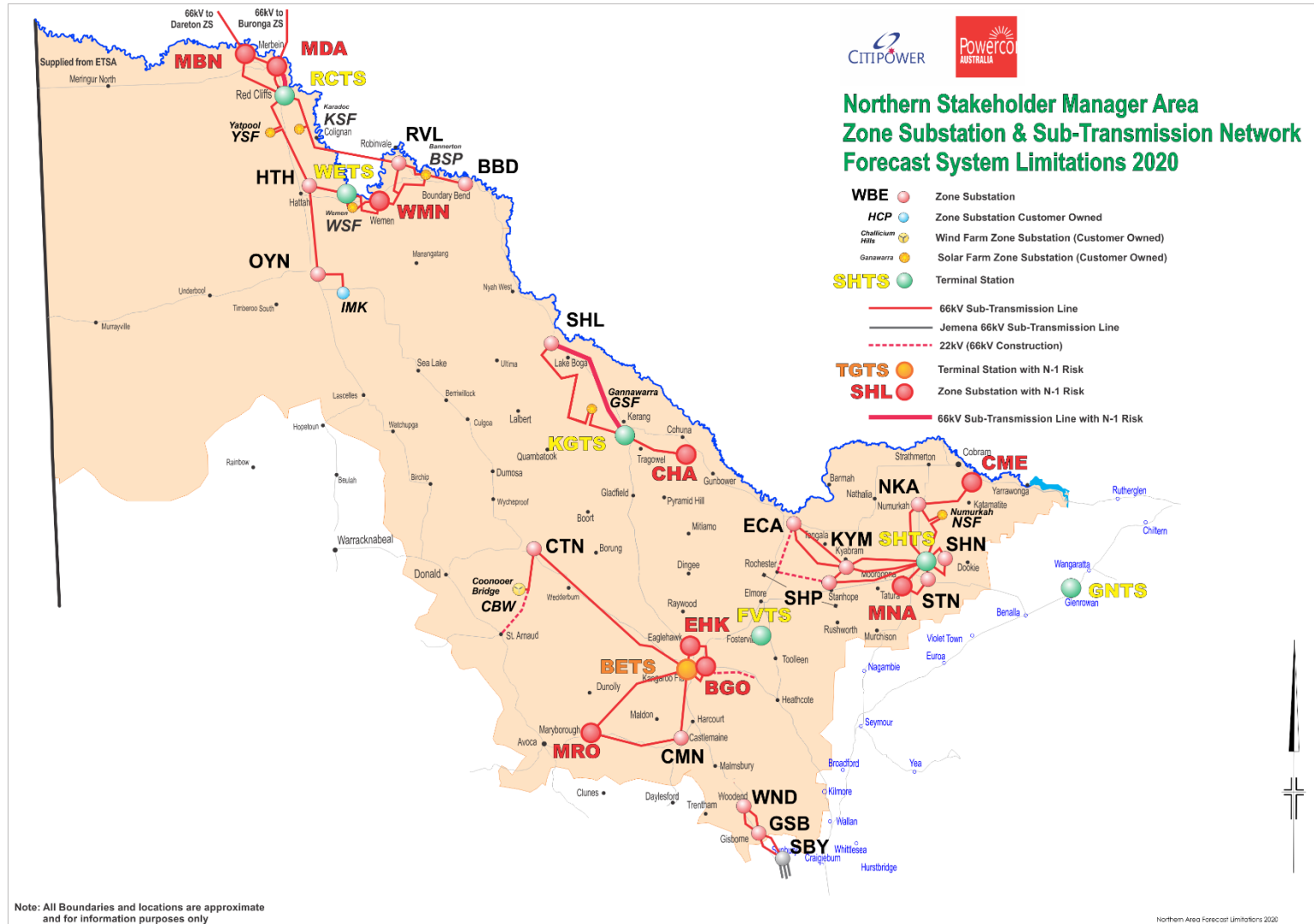
December 2020

A.3. Southern area zone substations and sub-transmission lines

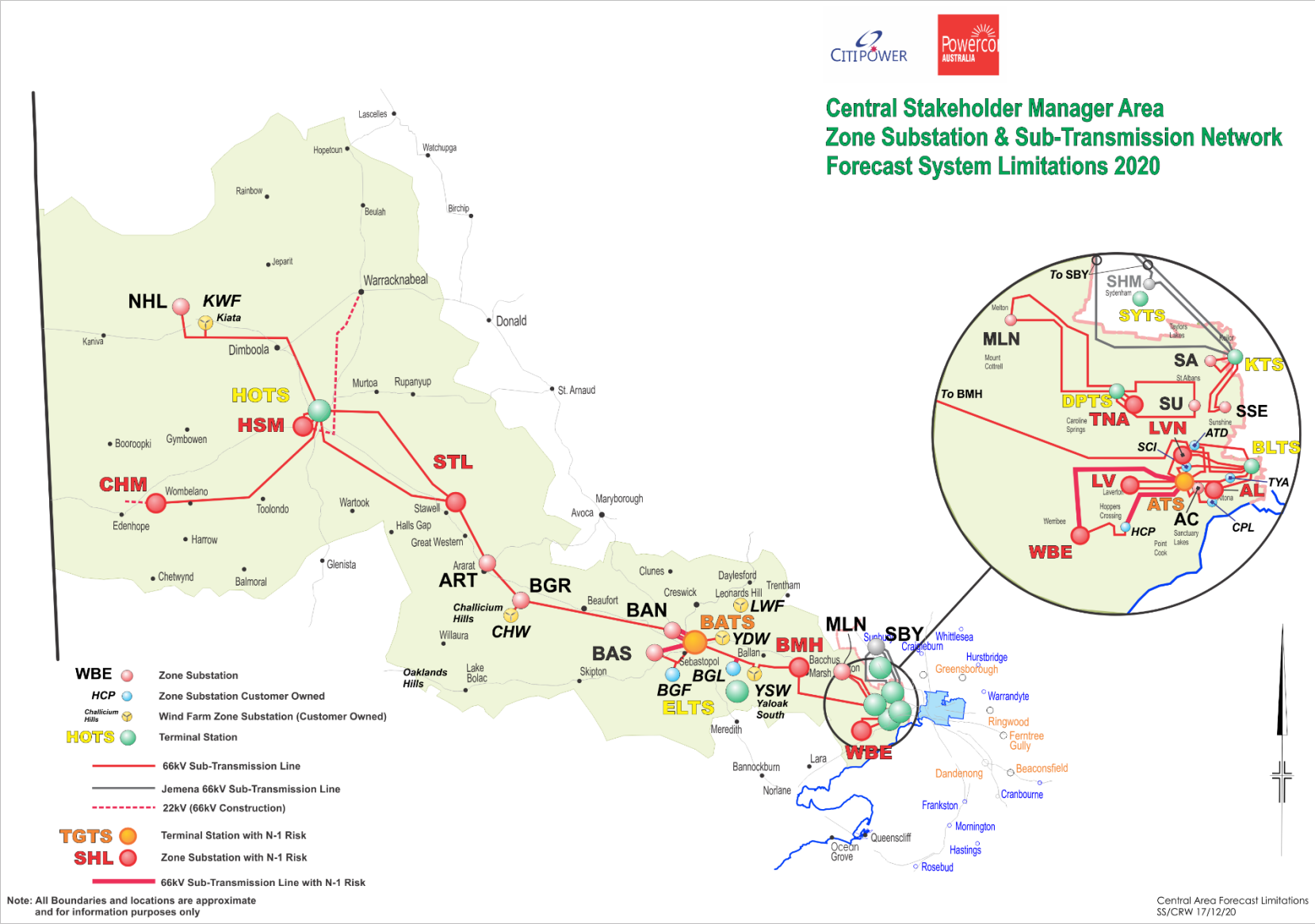


Appendix B Maps with forecast system limitations and asset to be retired or replaced

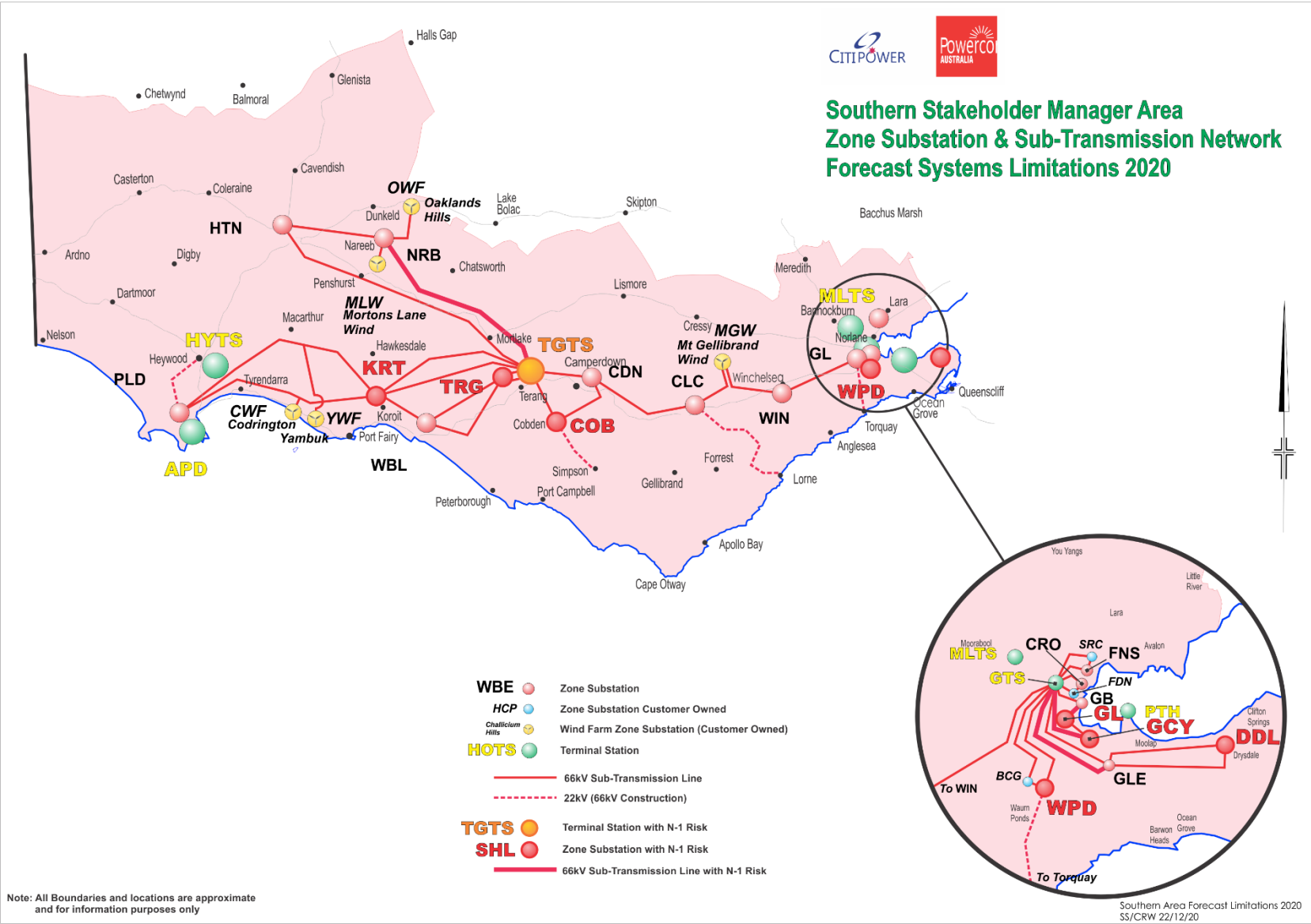
B.1. Northern area map with forecast system limitations



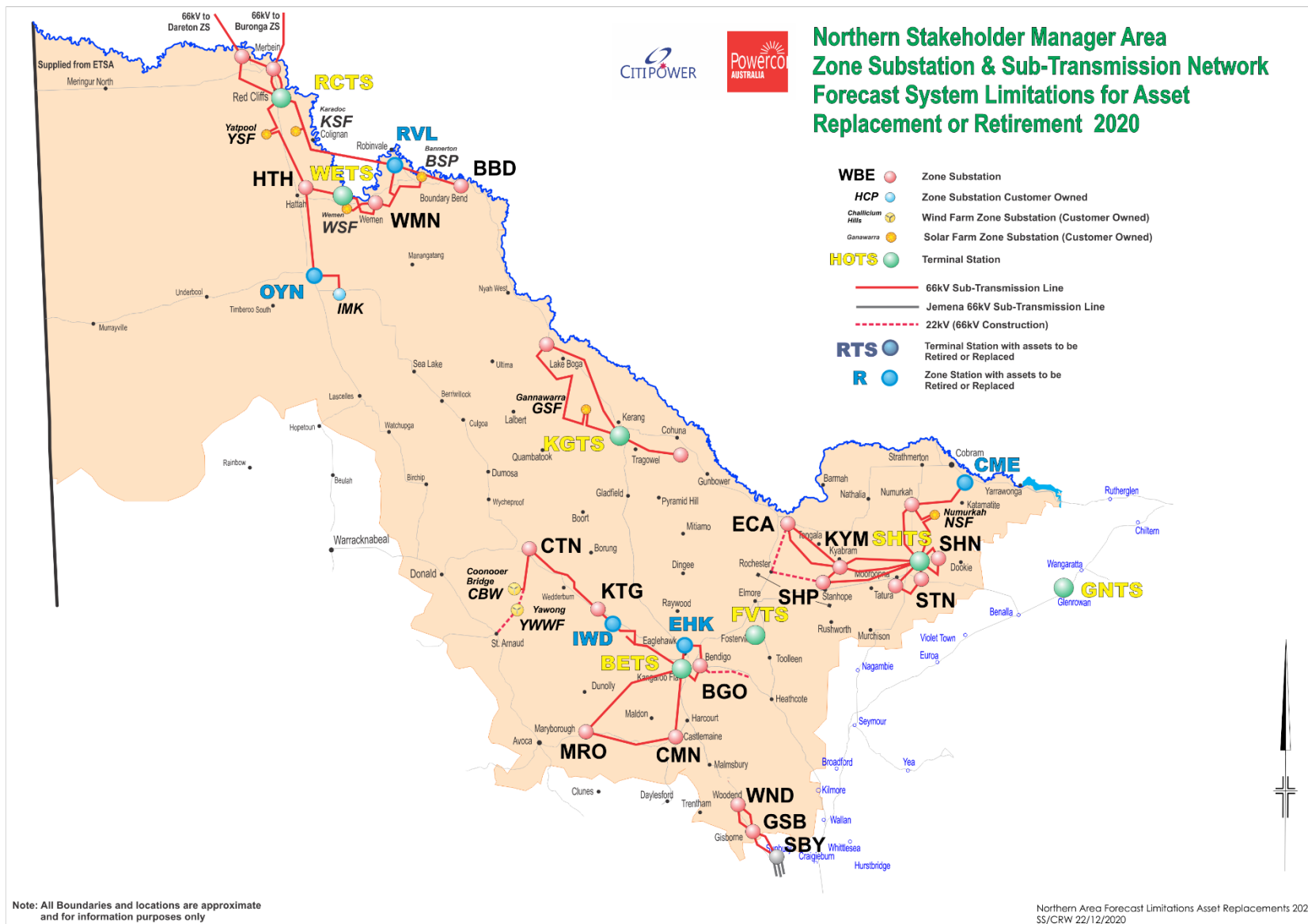
B.2. Central area map with forecast system limitations



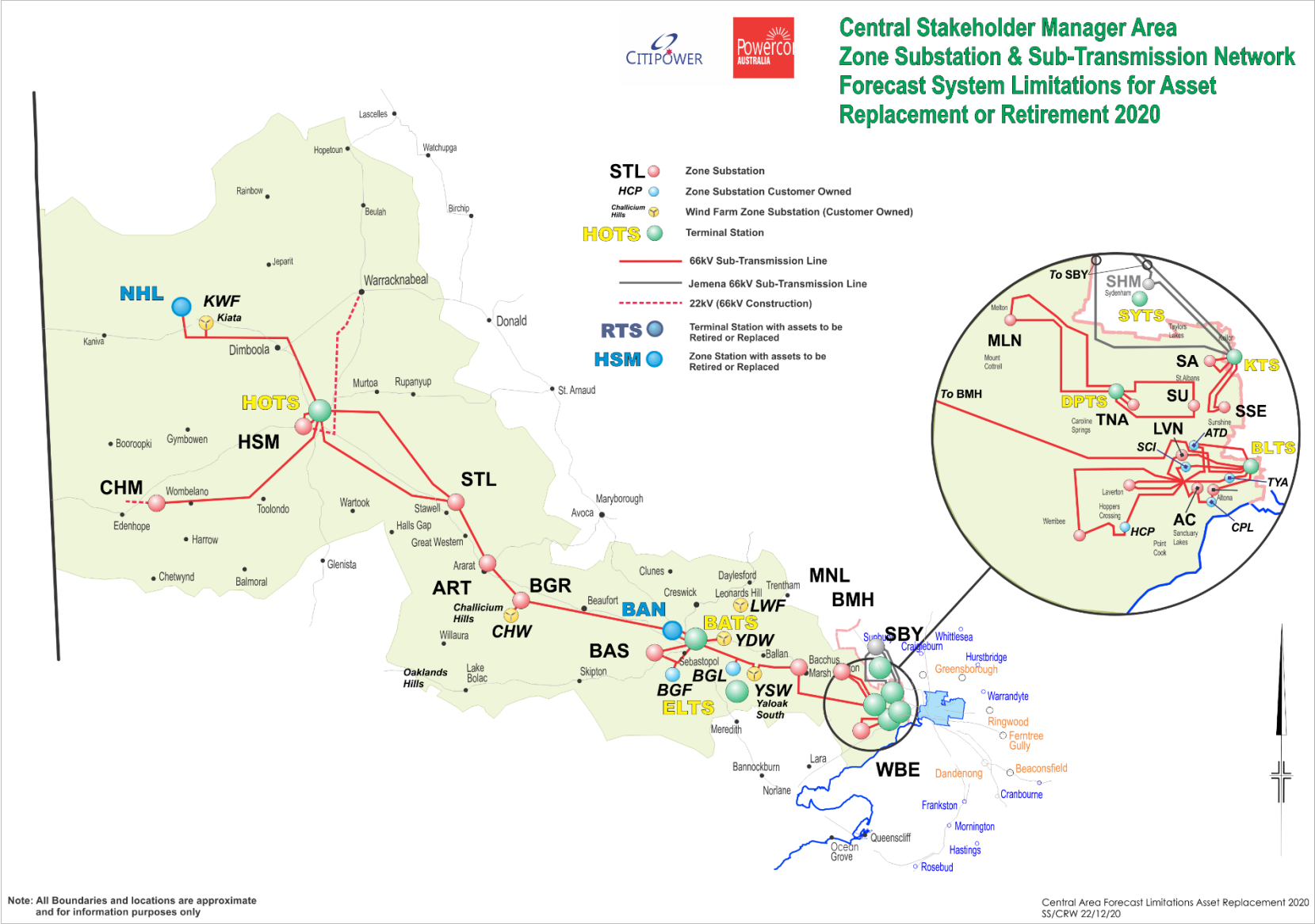
B.3. Southern area map with forecast system limitations



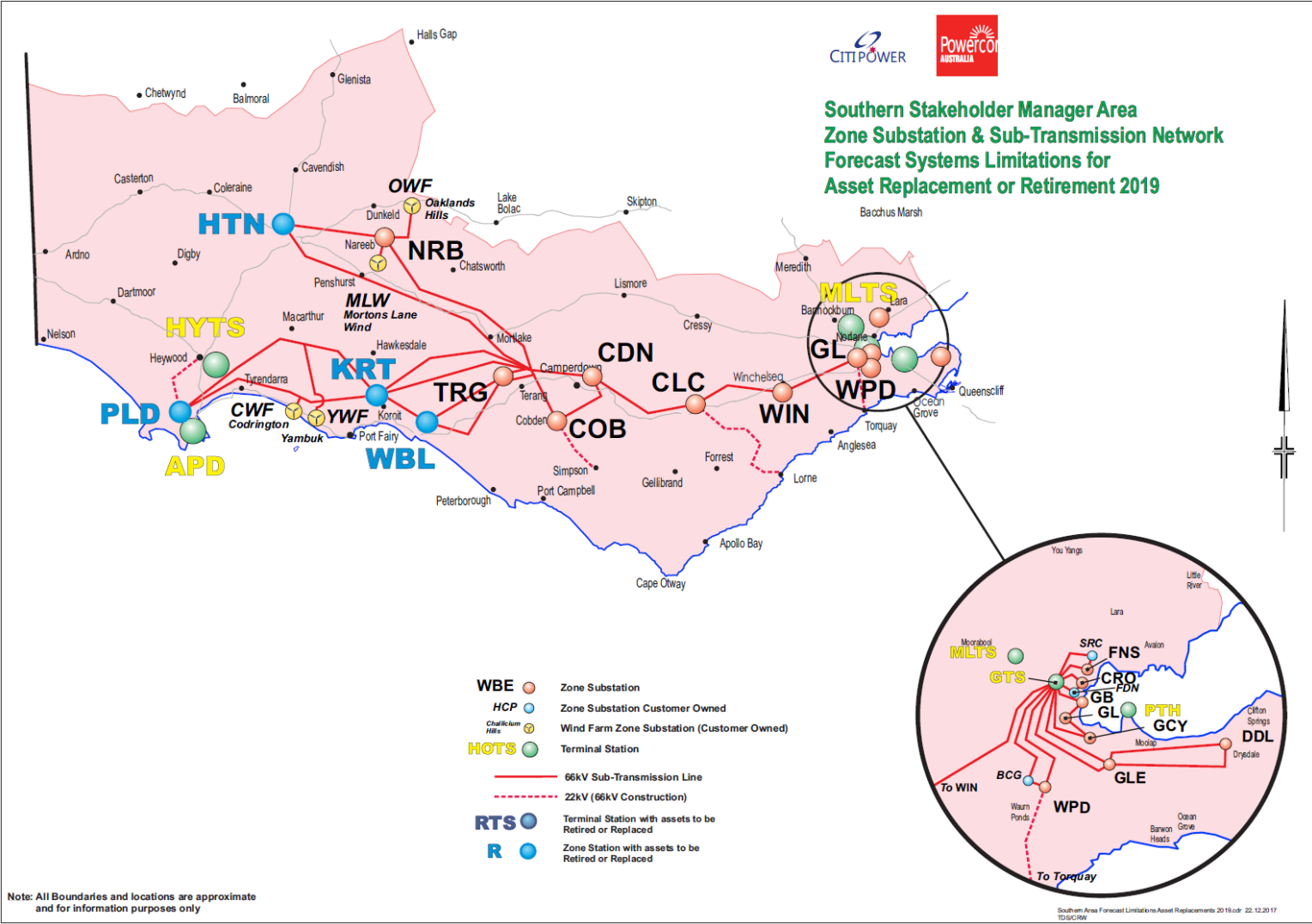
B.4. Northern area map with assets to be retired or replaced



B.5. Central area map with assets to be retired or replaced



B.6. Southern area map with assets to be retired or replaced



Appendix C Glossary and Abbreviations

C.1. Glossary

Common Term	Description
kV	kilo Volt
Amps	Ampere
MW	Mega Watt
MWh	Mega Watt hour
MVA	Mega Volt Ampere
Firm Rating	The cyclic station output capability with an outage of one transformer. Also known as the N-1 Cyclic Rating.
N Cyclic Rating	The station output capacity with all transformers in service. Cyclic ratings assume that the load follows a daily pattern and are calculated using load curves appropriate to the season. Cyclic ratings also take into consideration the thermal inertia of the plant.
N-1 Cyclic Rating	The cyclic station output capability with an outage of one transformer.
Capacity of Line (Amps)	The line current rating which takes into consideration the type of line, conductor materials, allowable insulation temperature, effect of adjacent lines, allowable temperature rise and ambient conditions. It should be noted that Powercor operates many types of underground cables in its sub-transmission system. The different types of underground cables have varying operating parameters that in turn define their ratings.
MVA above either WCR or SCR	The amount of demand forecast to exceed the Winter Cyclic Rating or the Summer Cyclic Rating.
% Above Capacity	The percentage by which the forecast maximum demand exceeds the N-1 cyclic rating.
Energy at risk	The amount of energy that would not be supplied if a major outage of a transformer or sub-transmission line occurs at the station or sub-transmission loop in that particular year, and no other mitigation action is taken.
Annual hours per year at risk	The number of hours in a year during which the 50 th percentile demand forecast exceeds the zone substation N-1 Cyclic Rating or sub-transmission line rating.

C.2. Zone substation abbreviations

Abbreviation	Powercor Zone Substation	Abbreviation	Powercor Zone Substation
AC	Altona Chemicals	KRT	Koroit
AL	Altona	KYM	Kyabram
ART	Ararat	LV	Laverton
BAN	Ballarat North	LVN	Laverton North
BAS	Ballarat South	MBN	Merbein
BBD	Boundary Bend	MDA	Mildura
BGO	Bendigo	MLN	Melton
BMH	Bacchus Marsh	MNA	Mooroopna
CDN	Camperdown	MRO	Maryborough
CHA	Cohuna	NHL	Nhill
CHM	Charam	NKA	Numurkah
CLC	Colac	OYN	Ouyen
CME	Cobram East	PLD	Portland
CMN	Castlemaine	RVL	Robinvale
COB	Cobden	SA	St Albans
CRO	Corio	SHL	Swan Hill
CTN	Charlton	SHN	Shepparton North
DDL	Drysdale	SHP	Stanhope
DLF	Docklands	SSE	Sunshine East
ECA	Echuca	STL	Stawell
EHK	Eaglehawk	STN	Shepparton
FNS	Ford North Shore	SU	Sunshine
GB	Geelong B	TRG	Terang
GCY	Geelong City	WBE	Werribee
GL	Geelong	WBL	Warrnambool
GLE	Geelong East	WIN	Winchelsea
GSB	Gisborne	WMN	Wemen
HSM	Horsham	WND	Woodend
HTN	Hamilton	WPD	Waurin Ponds

C.3. Terminal station abbreviations

Abbreviation	Terminal Station (AusNet Services Asset)	Abbreviation	Terminal Station (AusNet Services Asset)
ATS	Altona	HOTS	Horsham
BATS	Ballarat	KGTS	Kerang
BETS	Bendigo	KTS	Keilor
BLTS	Brooklyn	RCTS	Red Cliffs
DPTS	Deer Park (TransGrid)	SHTS	Shepparton
FBTS	Fishermans Bend	TGTS	Terang
GTS	Geelong	WETS	Wemen

Appendix D Asset Management Documents

Powercor document references are:

Asset Management Policy: JEQA4UJ443MT-150-27559

Asset Management System Framework: JEQA4UJ443MT-150-27597

Strategic Asset Management Plan: JEQA4UJ443MT-150-27604

Asset Management Strategies subjects – the following table lists the asset management strategies that apply across all asset classes:

Asset management strategy subject	Purpose
Network Operations and Utilisation	Structured approaches to improvements to a range of operational functions which together improve operational performance of the network.
Asset Information and Systems	Asset data and information types, relationships between them and the systems used to manage asset data and information.
Network Performance	Performance improvement programs to meet network reliability and performance requirements over the regulatory period, and an increasingly complex generation and distribution landscape requiring sophisticated technical responses from CP/PAL
Bushfire Mitigation	Structured approaches to prevention of bushfires associated with the design, operation, construction and maintenance of network assets.
Vegetation and Line Clearance (<i>planned for future</i>)	Integration of vegetation and line clearance requirements into the asset management system to align with asset management objectives and ensure ongoing regulatory and statutory compliance.
Connections, Augmentation and Replacement	Improvement programs to manage the connections, augmentation and replacement processes to ensure the network remains capable of distributing a reliable supply of electricity to customers
Maintenance Management	The rationale behind various maintenance management initiatives, projects and plans that together ensure the right maintenance is delivered at the right time and in the right way.
Network Safety	Integration of network safety practices into the asset management system to ensure visibility of regulatory and statutory compliance obligations, and alignment with asset management objectives.
Future Grid	Technologies and smart networks (including batteries, solar and wind generation, decentralised generation, demand management, metering, demand management) and associated impacts on network design, dynamics, monitoring and corresponding changing skill requirements.
Environment and Sustainability (<i>planned for future</i>)	Integration of environment and sustainability requirements into the asset management system to ensure visibility of regulatory and statutory compliance obligations and alignment with asset management objectives.
Asset Management System Performance (<i>planned for future</i>)	Description of the strategies and objectives that CP/PAL use to measure asset management system performance, and ensure optimum asset management system effectiveness, efficiency and continued alignment with the SAMP objectives.
Asset Management System Resources (<i>planned for future</i>)	The assessment, selection, development, procurement or acquisition, deployment and application of human and non-human resources required to develop and implement the CP/PAL asset management system, and implement and monitor the asset management objectives.

Asset Class Strategies – the following table lists the asset class strategy subjects and the asset coverage of each strategy:

Asset class strategy	Asset coverage
Poles and towers	Wood, concrete, and steel poles Steel lattice towers
Pole top structures	Pole top structures including crossarms and insulators HV fuses Surge arresters
Overhead conductors	Bare conductors (aluminium, copper, steel) High voltage aerial bundled cable Low voltage aerial bundled cable Covered conductor
Underground cables	Subtransmission, high voltage and low voltage cables Cable pits Cable pillars Auxiliary services Cascade LV lighting cables
Zone transformers	Zone substation transformers, regulators and autotransformers Transformer bushings Transformer tap changers Transformer water cooling systems
Distribution substation plant miscellaneous	Regulators Capacitors Capacitor balancing units
Public lighting	Luminaires PE cells Brackets
Zone substation plant miscellaneous	Capacitor banks Capacitor bank step switches Reactors Static VAR compensators Instrument transformers Surge diverters Steel work Fire walls Neutral earth resistors (NER) Rapid earth fault current limiter (REFCL) systems Direct current (DC) supply systems Station low voltage (LV) supply systems
Distribution transformers	Pole transformers Kiosk transformers Ground transformers Indoor transformers
SCADA and communications	Optic fibre cable Supervisory cable Digital microwave radio Cellular radio Voice over IP (VoIP) system RTUs

Asset class strategy	Asset coverage
Zone switchgear	Circuit breakers Switchboards Outdoor busses Switches
Protection and control	6.6kV, 11kV, 22kV, 66kV and zone substation protection schemes and relays Line and feeder protection schemes Bus and station protection schemes Transformer protection schemes Cap bank protection schemes
Property and facilities	Zone substation buildings Zone substations leases Non kiosk ground or below ground distribution substations Communications buildings
Metering	AMI network communications AMI single phase direct connected meters AMI three phase direct connected meters AMI LV CT connected three phase meters. Low voltage metering current transformers Pole top high voltage metering VT & CT transformers (CP/PAL owned) Boundary metering HV & EHV Zone substation metering transformers (CP/PAL owned) Legacy type 5 MRIM Meters Legacy type 6 (basic) Meters Timber meter boards (includes CP/PAL owned fuse or facia mounted service protective device (SPD) holders and neutral links)
Distribution switchgear	Circuit breakers Automatic circuit re-closers (ACRs) Switches Ring main units (RMUs)
Service lines	Overhead low voltage service assets Service cable attachment fittings Service protection devices Junction boxes