
SA Power Networks' Asset Condition and Risk Advisory Group

Meeting Details

Organiser	Alex Lewis
Date	Friday 22 November
Time	10.00am-12.30pm
Location	Keswick Auditorium, 1 Anzac Highway, Keswick

Members

Davis Veremu (Chair)
Michael Lee (Deputy Chair)
John Baumann, Community representative
Adam Davidson, Community representative
Michael Kleinig, Community representative
Paul Matulin, Community representative
Sue Chase, Regional representative
Penny Williams, DC Streaky Bay

SA Power Networks

Ali Walsh, Head of Asset Strategy & Insights
Alex Lewis, Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Erin Hampton, Stakeholder Engagement Lead

Guests/ Presenters

Desinta Jeffries, Head of Program Delivery
Richard Sibby, Head of Regulation
Elisia Reid, Asset Engineering Manager

1. Welcome and Introductions

Michael welcomed all members to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners. Davis was running late so Michael chaired the meeting.

Apologies from Penny Williams were noted. Erin Hampton was introduced to the group. Erin will be taking on Alex's role on the ACRAG going forward following a review of consultative group resourcing. It was also noted that Mickey has secured a new role in the business and her previous role has been advertised.

CAF meeting update

Alex provided a brief overview of the key items coming out of the last CAF meeting held in February and summarised the Briefing Note that was provided to all Advisory Groups.

- An Innovation Advisory Group is being established to provide customer input into the innovation framework and activities. EOs are currently being sought with the intent of a member from each Advisory Group sitting on the new group.
- The new strategic narrative and values which articulate the behaviours that are expected from people in delivering the strategy.
- The Inaugural Kelvin Trimper scholarship winners.

Customer outcomes

Each advisory group has been asked to develop an outcome under each theme

- Reliable, safe and resilient network
- Clean and green energy
- Customer experience and empowerment
- Affordable and equitable supply

Plus, an outcome for

- Innovation
- Advocacy
- Data/ Know your customer

Further work on these is required. The item was deferred to later in the meeting but due to time restraints will be discussed at the next meeting. Alex/Erin/ Ali to have an offline meeting with Davis.

2. Regulation 101

Richard provided an overview of the regulatory framework within which SA Power Networks operates, the funding arrangements and an update on the 2025-30 Regulatory Proposal.

Discussion included:

- Benchmarking and ESCoSA standards – are we governed by State or National standards? ESCoSA to present to a future ACRAAG meeting on service standards.
- The complexity of the regulatory environment was noted.
- Why wasn't extra funding sought for insulator washing.
- Richard outlined the cost pass through process available for significant natural disasters eg. floods.
- In regard to assets failures, do SAPN replace like for like or consider future proofing the network?
- Current replacement levels are not sustainable – 'repex' is the current elephant in the room given the life of expectancy of assets vs replacements.
- SAPN was requested to provide the top 10 risks SAPN faces in managing the network.

3. A Day of Planned Work

Des provided an overview of the SAPN Network and the people who work in Program Delivery. This includes the following working out of 28 depots across the state:

- 420+ powerline workers
- 100+ substation workers
- 40+ electrical mechanics

The type of work undertaken – planned (customer and internal) and unplanned – was outlined and the notification process to customers for the average of 45 planned outages per day was provided. In 2024, more than 1.7M digital notifications were sent.

Des provided an overview of a typical day of planned work, for both regional and metro depots, using a selected random day.

Discussion included:

- Is all customer work paid for by customers?
- Asset centric but interested in the human centric and safety. Des outlined the safety measures in place to keep our workers and the community safe.
- The level of spares and critical spares stored at the depots.



- Monthly trends per depots and performance/ outage duration. Josh Newnham has commenced in a new role and will be invited to present to a future ACRAG meeting.
- Line of sight and visibility on data.
- Notifications in relation to estimated restoration times.
- Where does unplanned work sit in terms of expenditure type? Sits in a few buckets depending on work (opex, repex, emergency response).
- Davis requested future safety shares to provide information on safety incidents that have occurred.

4. Reliability presentation on outages, response times and reliability/ performance targets

The presentation focused on insulator washing and the remainder of the reliability presentation was deferred to the July meeting. The group raised concerns regarding SAPN's approach to insulator washing with the general feeling being that not enough had been done. While this is not a new issue, this has been a particularly bad season with an extended drought period.

Discussion included:

- Why hasn't aerial washing been undertaken?
- Asset classification for high-risk areas – ACRAG visibility on critical assets is desirable.
- Why wasn't funding sought in reset for this program?
- Funding should have been diverted from other expenditure areas eg. cyber security to insulator washing.
- SAPN should have been washing lines in January.
- Could a pass through be sought?
- Feedback on damaged appliances (due to intermittency) and the need for a comms strategy for customers.
- Balancing expenditure with business wide objectives on overall reliability targets.

Reliability presentation deferred and presentation to next meeting include insulator washing/lessons learned. Mark Vincent/ Darren Milligan to attend to outline approach and future planning.

5. CBD Reliability business case

Elisia Reed presented on the CBD Reliability Business Case, which followed the AERs Draft Determination and the inclusion of a placeholder for CBD reliability and the request for further modelling on options.

Discussion included:

- Bringing in line with other jurisdictions.
- Cable failure – second biggest cause is unknown – need to understand the cause.
- Electranet reporting on maintenance.
- Salvage/ expenditure in CBD – is it whole of life costing? SAPN currently recycles approximately 90% of its assets (lead, copper, concrete, steel).
- Attached is a link to a video talking about our reuse and recycling
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjAYW2lRomo&list=PLIYm0AxZZ7KhcC_8YaXRZ2O8Px1wJKYqv&index=1
- How long till SAPN is at a steady repex level?
- What is the cost benefit analysis regarding investment vs automation.
- The bill impacts from the revised proposal in relation to CBD reliability expenditure.
- Original vs Revised Proposal – topography changes resulted in a 25% reduction in expenditure. The changes addressed the AERs feedback and provided a more cost-effective approach to improving CBD reliability.
- Replace vs install and cost differences.

- Resourcing and skills required in CBD – a dedicated team has been established to manage the reliability program with specific expertise eg. feeder automation expertise.

6. AMTP Roadmap - Asset Management information workstream

Ali outlined the Asset Information Management Strategy component of the roadmap, with the focus on data as an asset. A decision to focus on data standards and models has been taken – this is a foundational component upon which further initiatives will follow.

A digital engineering and standards strategy is in development which includes a plan to develop data standards and models. Further data quality initiatives are intended to leverage this foundational component and inform future AMTP initiatives.

The fault visualisation tool is leveraging new capability from the GIS tool.

Question re executive support for AMTP – the Asset Management Steering Committee provides this governance.

7. Other Business/ Around the Table

- Innovation Advisory Group – EOIs close 21 March.
- Insulator washing program (discussion captured under item 4).
- Meeting etiquette and guidelines – ensuring only one person talks at a time, particularly when a hybrid meeting.

Meeting schedule for 2025

Proposed meeting schedule for 2025 is:

- Wednesday 30 July
- Wednesday 22 October (bus trip proposed)

Current action Items:

Meeting	Action	Who	Due Date
June '24	Seek interest from the Adelaide Economic Development Agency to sit on Advisory Group.	Alex	July 2024
June '24	Presentation on outages, response times and reliability/ performance targets to a future meeting. Group to be provided regular updates in relation to reliability targets.	Ali/ Kym W	March 2025 – deferred to July meeting
March '25	ESCoSA to present to a future ACRAG meeting on service standards.	Erin	TBC
March '25	SAPN provide the top 10 risks SAPN faces in managing the network.	Erin	July 2025
March '25	Monthly trends per depots and performance/ outage duration. Josh Newnham has commenced in a new role and will be invited to present to a future ACRAG meeting.	Erin	July 2025
March '25	Safety shares to provide information on safety incidents that have occurred.	Erin	July 2025
March '25	Reliability presentation deferred and presentation to include insulator washing/lessons learned. Mark Vincent/ Darren Milligan to attend.	Erin	July 2025
March '25	SAPN to provide visibility on critical assets/ high risk assets.	Ali	Oct 2025
March '25	Alex/Erin/ Ali to have an offline meeting with Davis on customer outcomes and further discussion at next meeting.	Alex/Erin	July 2025



Ongoing and procedural action items:

Meeting	Action	Who	Due Date
June '24	Briefing Note for Community Advisory Forum and updated ToR.	Alex	Ongoing
Nov '24	Regular updates in relation to reliability targets	Ali/ Kym W	Ongoing
Nov '24	Deep dive into the different initiatives in Roadmap, starting with Network Forecasting and Investment Plan.	Ali	

