



# Power pole management practice

## Compliance and enforcement priority 2021/22

<b>Why is power pole management a priority?</b>	Pole failure in high winds or hot weather can lead to fires or bushfires with significant consequences for people and property.
<b>Who has the compliance obligation?</b>	Major Electrical Companies (MECs), Specified Operators, High Voltage Customers, and anyone with accountability for the management of power poles.
<b>How does the hazard or non-compliance occur?</b>	The mismanagement of wooden power poles through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inadequate record keeping.</li><li>• Not conducting scheduled inspections.</li><li>• Not inspecting frequently or carefully enough, or not identifying and replacing at-risk poles.</li><li>• Maintaining poles in service beyond their intended design life.</li></ul>
<b>What compliance action will ESV take?</b>	We require MECs to demonstrate the long-term effectiveness of their current pole management practices, and will include remedial action obligations in their Bushfire Mitigation Plan (BMP). We will monitor timely implementation of MEC pole management remedial actions and BMPs.
<b>What enforcement action may ESV take?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure MECs comply with pole management practices as part of their Electricity Safety Management Scheme (ESMSs) and BMPs.</li><li>• Require amendment of ESMSs and/or BMPs to address ESV's findings.</li><li>• Prosecute for non-compliance with ESMSs or BMPs, or breach of general duties.</li></ul>
<b>What are the targets?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate of the two remaining MECs (United Energy and Jemena) and publication of draft reports (including specific findings) by December 2021 and June 2022, respectively.</li><li>• All MECs to be in full compliance with their ESV accepted ESMS and BMP.</li></ul>
<b>What will ESV measure?</b>	The quarterly progress of MEC implementation of actions in response to ESV's investigation findings.
<b>Who will ESV work with?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Australian Energy Regulator (AER).</li><li>• Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).</li></ul>