



Australian
Industry and
Skills Committee

POWERLINE SAFETY

Name of allocated IRC(s): ESI, Transmission, Distribution and Rail
Name of the SSO: Australian Industry Standards

1. Administrative information

For a list of the products proposed to be reviewed as part of this project, please see **Attachment A**.

Name of IRC(s):	Electricity Supply Industry, Transmission, Distribution and Rail
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Name of SSO:	Australian Industry Standards
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1.1 Name and code of Training Package(s) examined to determine change is required

UET Electricity Supply Industry, Transmission, Distribution and Rail Training Package

2. The Case for Change

For information on the job roles to be supported through the proposed qualifications updates, enrolments data, completion rates, and the number of RTOs delivering these qualifications please see **Attachment B**.

2.1 Rationale for change

- This Case for Change (CfC) proposes to develop a new unit of competency to address the skills and knowledge required by non- Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) workers to work safely near overhead electrical powerlines. The new unit was proposed by key industry stakeholders and supported by electrical regulators across Australia.
- There is a general lack of awareness and education of non-electrical workers across industries about the risks and hazards associated with working near electrical powerlines. These industries include, but are not limited to agriculture, construction, mining, forestry, arborists, communication, transport, and waste recycling (garbage trucks).
- The Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) encompassing the Transmission, Distribution and Rail (TDR) Sector currently use two units within the UET Training Package for working in the vicinity of powerlines:
 - UETDREL005 Work safely in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus
 - UETDREL006 Work safely in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus as a non-electrical worker
- These two units are written for electrical and non-electrical ESI workers and relate to how they work around the electrical network for network operators.
- The proposed new Unit of Competency is to establish skills standards for all types of workers (non ESI) that in their general course of work could come into contact with powerlines. Some organisations use UETDREL006 Work safely in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus to train non-electrical workers for this purpose, but this unit is written specifically for ESI workers and does not enable appropriate training for non ESI workers. For example, what to do if a spraying rig connects with a powerline.
- If the new unit is not developed industry will continue to use a variation of the UETDREL006 unit without addressing the appropriate skills and knowledge requirements for non ESI workers.

2.2 Evidence for change

The need for the proposed new Unit of Competency is evidenced by recent deaths and accidents listed below:

- There have been nine fatalities in Australia since 2019 involving accidental contact with powerlines. Dozens more persons have been lucky to survive, resulting in hospitalisations for severe burns and amputations. This includes two fatalities on [Christmas eve 2021 in NSW when a gate being lifted hit 11KV HV powerlines](#)
- During 2020-2021 there were 622 accidental contacts with powerlines. [Electricity Network safety report \(Pg 18\)](#)
- "During 2020-2021, there were 54 agricultural incidents involving overhead powerline contacts in Queensland alone, including sadly a number of fatalities and serious injuries." - [Rotamarker-Rebate-Program.pdf \(gff.org.au\)](#).

- “In October 2021, a man suffered electric shock and severe burns while installing gutter guarding on the roof of an industrial shed. For reasons yet to be established, the worker came into contact with a nearby 11kV single wire earth return (SWER) while he was on the roof.” - [Overhead powerline incidents | WorkSafe.qld.gov.au](#).
- “In November 2021, a worker suffered serious burns and other minor injuries when a mobile concrete placing boom contacted an 11kV overhead powerline at a residential construction site.” - [Overhead powerline incidents | WorkSafe.qld.gov.au](#).

The new Unit of Competency will be for non ESI workers and will focus on information on powerline identification, planning and management before commencing work and emergency escape requirements. These critical components will help to save lives.

2.3 Consideration of existing products

- There is an online Rural Electrical Safety Awareness non-accredited course offered by TAFEQld designed for agriculture workers. The course covers information on general electrical safety e.g., safety switches, wiring that should only be completed by electrician, power lead checks. It provides minimal information on powerlines and doesn't cover safety zones, spotters etc. It is not targeted at powerline safety. Industry have noted that an online course is not the most appropriate training method to ensure the safety of workers and prevent incidents.

2.4 Approach to streamlining and rationalisation of the training products being reviewed

- Streamlining or rationalisation of this content is not possible given the nature of the work functions covered.

3. Stakeholder consultation

3.1 Stakeholder consultation undertaken in the development of Case for Change

*For a full list of industry-specific stakeholders that actively participated in the stakeholder consultation process undertaken to develop the Case for Change, please see **Attachment C**.*

- The IRC was approached by industry stakeholders who identified that there was a gap in the UET Training Package relating to non-electrical workers to work safely near overhead electrical powerlines.
- The IRC has consulted industry through their networks, the Energex Qld community safety team, and through correspondence with electrical regulators and with RTO's that are currently delivering UET units.
- Development of the Case for Change involved consultation with stakeholders via a range of communication mechanisms, including face to face meetings (virtual), stakeholder networks, teleconferences and emails.

3.2 Evidence of Industry Support

*For a list of the issues raised by stakeholders during consultation and the IRC's response to these, please see **Attachment D**.*

- No objections to the review of the qualification and units were raised during the consultation process.
- Energex Qld community safety team and electrical regulators provide information on the incidents and deaths occurring in the industry.
- Correspondence with RTO's that are currently delivering UET units, was positive for a unit that would suit the general workforce in safety requirements about powerlines.

3.3 Proposed stakeholder consultation strategy for project

*Note: For a full list of industry-specific stakeholders who are planned to be contacted to participate in the stakeholder consultation process undertaken for this project, please see **Attachment E**.*

- Key Industry stakeholders will be identified in consultation with industry regulators, associations, and the ESI TDR IRC. A general invitation to participate on the project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be sent to all ESI TDR subscribers. Targeted invitations will also be sent to known technical experts.
- AIS, on behalf of the ESI TDR IRC, will promote the opportunity to contribute through stakeholder webinars, the AIS website, EDM's, AIS newsletter and public notifications. Stakeholders will also be notified of key milestones throughout the life of the project, including requests for feedback on draft materials.
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation will occur over the life of the project via a combination of the following methods:
 - Direct engagement: face to face consultations, phone, emails, video/teleconferencing
 - Industry forums and conferences, webinars, online feedback mechanisms
 - STA direct engagement
- A range of consultation strategies will be used so stakeholders in rural, regional and remote areas, and in smaller jurisdictions have multiple avenues to provide feedback.
- This includes but is not limited to, online/video consultation, email correspondence and promotional activity via targeted communications including social media. A recently developed Engagement hub on the AIS website provides a one stop portal for information about how all stakeholders can participate and inform Training Package development work.

4. Licencing or regulatory linkages

- There is no licencing or regulatory linkages

5. Project implementation

5.1 Prioritisation category

- It is proposed that this product development is progressed as a fast-track.
- Based on industry intelligence that this covers high level health and safety concerns and that there is no existing national unit of competency the IRC proposes a fast-track project.

5.2 Project milestones

- Key project milestones include:
 - *AISC project approval – April 2022*
 - *Draft 1 consultation – June 2021*
 - *Stakeholder validation – July 2021*
 - *Quality Assurance – August 2021*
 - *Final consultation with states and territories – August 2022*
 - *CfE submitted for approval – 30 August 2022*

5.3 Delivery or implementation issues

- No delivery or implementation issues have been identified to date.

6. Implementing the Skills Minister's Priority reforms for Training Packages (2015 and October 2020)

- The project submission will support industry's expectations for training delivery and provide a revised Companion Volume Implementation Guide (CVIG) to support delivery of the new products.
- The unit is targeted to those that may need to work around powerlines and can be used as a portal skill that can be utilised by multiple users and training packages.

This Case for Change was agreed to by the [name] IRC

Name of Chair

Peter Woods

Signature of Chair



Date

1 March 2022

Attachment A: Training Package components to change

Australian Industry Standards Limited

Contact details: David Dixon -Chief Operating Officer

Date submitted: 01 March 2022

Project number	Project Name	Qualification/ Unit / Skillset	Code	Title	Details of last review <i>(endorsement date, nature of this update transition, review, establishment)</i>	Change Required
4	Powerline Safety	Unit	UETDRELXXY	Work safely near powerlines	New Unit	New

Attachment B: Job role, enrolment information, the number of RTOs currently delivering these qualifications

Please set out the job roles to be supported through the updated qualifications, enrolment data over the past three years in which data is available for each qualification, completion rates for each qualification, and the number of RTOs delivering these qualifications.

This is a new unit of competency, and could be used by the following industries, agriculture, construction, mining, forestry, arborists, communication, transport, and waste recycling (garbage trucks).

Job role	Qualification to be updated to support the job role	Enrolment data (for the past three years)	Completion rates (for the past three years)	Number of RTOs delivering (for the past three years)

Attachment C: List of stakeholders that actively participated in the consultation process of the Case for Change

The Case for Change development will involve contacting stakeholders from the following organisational types across all states and territories within Australia as required:

- Industry Reference Committee (IRC) Representatives
- Employers (Non-IRC)
- Peak Industry Bodies
- Unions
- Regulators
- RTOs
- Other/Consultants

Attachment D: Issues Raised by Stakeholders during consultation on the development of the Case for Change

Stakeholder Type	Issues Raised	IRC's Response to Issues Raised
Industry Reference Committee (IRC) Representatives		
Peak Industry Bodies		
Employers (Non-IRC)		
Regulators		
Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)		
Training Boards/Other		
State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs)		
Unions		
<i>Please add other categories as appropriate</i>		

Attachment E: List of stakeholders to be contacted as part of the development of the Case for Endorsement

The Case for Endorsement will involve contacting stakeholders from the following organisational types across all states and territories within Australia as required:

- Industry Reference Committee (IRC) Representatives
- Employers (Non-IRC)
- Peak Industry Bodies
- Unions
- Regulators
- RTOs
- Other/Consultants