

Exclusion for Guaranteed Service Level payment AusNet Electricity Services – 3 May 2021

Guaranteed service level payment exclusion for an outage at Wodonga Terminal station on 3 May 2021

AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd (AusNet Electricity Services) applied to the commission on 9 August 2021 seeking exclusion from making supply restoration payments and low reliability payments (guaranteed service level payments) relating to an event on 3 May 2021, the Wodonga Terminal Station power outage event.

On 17 November 2021, the Essential Services Commission granted an exclusion to AusNet Electricity Services from making guaranteed service level payments relating to a lightning caused transmission outage at Wodonga terminal station on 3 May 2021.

Under clause 6.3.4(c) of version 12 of the Electricity Distribution Code, distributors can be excluded from making guaranteed service level payments for power outages, if it was caused by the failure of transmission connection assets (unless it was due to inadequate planning of transmission connections and the distributor is responsible for that planning).

After reviewing the information AusNet Electricity Services provided, the commission is satisfied that AusNet Electricity Services qualifies to be granted an exclusion from the obligation to make guaranteed service level payments in relation to the event on 3 May 2021.

The commission was satisfied that the outage on 3 May 2021 was caused by lightning, resulting in a disturbance signal being detected by transmission equipment, which activated a shutdown of transmission assets. The commission also note that the risk of an outage could have been mitigated through additional equipment with the transmission connection, but this was not the responsibility of AusNet Electricity Services.

Essential Services Commission

22 November 2021