

Meeting Date: 21 August 2024

AUTHORITY INVESTIGATION INTO THE NORTHLAND OUTAGE ON 20 JUNE 2024

SECURITY AND RELIABILITY COUNCIL

The Authority's monitoring team will give an update on phase one of the Authority's investigation into the Northland transmission tower failure and outage on 20 June 2024. A copy of the presentation will be added to Diligent, if available.

Note: This paper has been prepared for the purpose of the Security and Reliability Council (SRC). Content should not be interpreted as representing the views or policy of the Electricity Authority except where specifically noted.

Authority investigation into the 20 June 2024 Northland transmission tower failure and outage

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Minister for Energy requested, under section 18 of the Electricity Industry Act 2010, the Electricity Authority review and report on the grid emergency event that occurred on 20 June 2024. The event resulted in significant power outages in the Northland region.
- 1.2. Under Section 18 of the Act, the Minister can request the Authority review and report on any matter relating to the electricity industry that is specified by the Minister.
- 1.3. As the regulator, the Authority is best placed to conduct an independent investigation into the events and has welcomed the opportunity to carry out a review.

2. Background

- 1.4. Around 11am on 20 June 2024, a 220kV transmission tower in a field near Glorit fell. Transpower has stated that this occurred when the nuts securing the tower to its base plate on three legs were removed causing the tower to lift off the base plate and fall.
- 1.5. Consequently, power was cut to Bream Bay, Kaikohe, Maungatapere, and Marsden. This represents most of Northpower and Top Energy's networks.
- 1.6. Power was mostly restored by the evening through the 110kV network, although consumers were asked to conserve power.
- 1.7. There was an economic impact as businesses were unable to trade. In addition, any unplanned outage puts medically dependent consumers at risk.
- 1.8. The Authority's [terms of reference](#) for the investigation describes the scope, conduct and output for the review.
- 1.9. The Authority will provide a report to the Minister for Energy by 13 September 2024 (12 weeks from the date the Minister requested the review). The Minister must make the report publicly available within 15 days of receiving the final report.
- 1.10. Transpower has appointed an external party (Daniel Twigg) to undertake an investigation into the cause of the fallen tower. A copy of Transpower's report and related information is available on [Transpower's website](#).
- 1.11. The purpose of the presentation is to update the SRC with progress on the investigation and support its advice to the Board.
- 1.12. The secretariat has been advised the presentation will not be available for inclusion in members' pre-meeting reading material. The secretariat will make copies of any available presentations via Diligent and in the room on the day.

2. Questions for the SRC to consider

The SRC is asked to consider the following general questions.

- Q1.** What further information, if any, does the SRC wish to have provided to it to maximise understanding of the scope and process for the Authority's review of the event?

- Q2. What updates does the SRC think are needed to its risk radar, in light of the event?**
- Q3. What would the SRC like to see in its forward work programme, to ensure appropriate coverage and prioritisation in its work programme?**
- Q4. What advice, if any, does the SRC wish to provide to the Authority?**

Appendix A: Authority presentation (if available)