AER Information Request

2025-30

Part of Energy Queensland

Reference	AER Additional Information #18	**Date**	11/10/2024
Attachments to response	N/A		

QUESTIONS:

There appears to be misalignment between the comments and the categorisation of failure in the detail failure data provided that requires further clarification.

- As noted in your email, we are referring to the pole failure data provided as part of IR007 4a.
- Within that worksheet, there are descriptions of outage causes (including column AI to AL).
- Based on these descriptions, it is not clear to us how some of these failures are being categorised as unassisted failures. We also want to align this worksheet with the annual unassisted pole failures figures provided in the pole business case.

RESPONSES:

The following information is shown in the "*ERG IR007_4a_Unassisted Pole Failures 201617-202223.xlsx*" file:

- Columns A to Q – information recorded in Ellipse on the emergency work order (generated and linked from the FeederStat record) which contains Object, Damage and Cause data and additional commentary recorded by the field crew replacing the failed asset.
- Columns S to AL – information recorded in FeederStat, Ergon Energy's outage management system and based on the fault call and initial information recorded by the attending crew.
- Columns AN to BK and CI to CJ - pole attributes sourced from Ellipse.
- Columns BL to CH - condition monitoring points that were measured or calculated at the last inspection.

It is a combination of analysing all of this information and other supporting evidence (such as photos and discussion with field crews) that determines whether a failure is unassisted or assisted. When making this decision, the entire scenario is taken into account to determine if the if a failure is unassisted.

For example, a pole might fail in a storm with high winds and when the information is reviewed we can see that the pole was rotten at the point of failure and the wind speeds were within the criteria that the network is designed and constructed to (i.e. < 120 km/h), then the pole failure is considered to be unassisted because it potentially could have been prevented. However, in the same scenario, if the wind speed exceeds design criteria (i.e. >120 km/h), it is classified as an assisted failure as it is has been impacted by a third party event out of Ergon Energy's control. There are scenarios that initially appear to be unassisted failures based on the reports provided by the field crews, such as a failure due to rot/decay, but on review of photos and discussion with field crews we might find out that a harvester (for example) came into contact with the pole and contributed to the failure so we would change this to an assisted failure.

The unassisted failure volumes in this spreadsheet, as summarised in the pivot table on “Sheet 2” aligns directly with Figure 2 of the “Business Case Pole Replacements – January 2024” as shown below.

Row Labels	Count of WORK_ORDER
2016	86
2017	74
2018	92
2019	107
2020	110
2021	98
2022	114
2023	91
2024	92

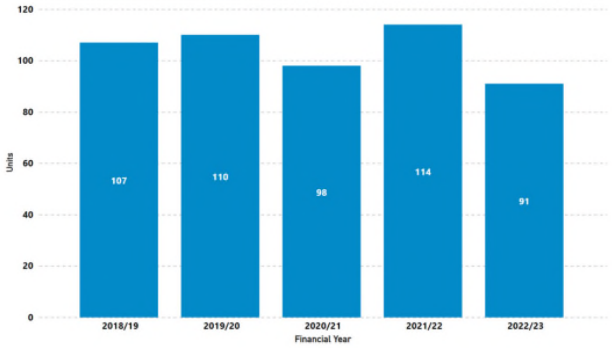

Figure 2: Unassisted Pole Failures