

# NSW Public Lighting Code draft reporting manual - response to submissions

10 June 2019

This paper provides IPART's responses to stakeholder submissions on IPART's draft *Electricity networks reporting manual - NSW Public Lighting Code compliance reporting* (Reporting Manual) on compliance with the NSW Public Lighting Code.

## Background

On 5 February 2019, the then Minister for Energy and Utilities varied the operating licences of Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy (Service Providers) to include a condition to comply with the *NSW Public Lighting Code – 2018* (the Code). This new licence condition is applicable from 1 July 2019.

IPART drafted a Reporting Manual to guide Service Providers on their reporting requirements under the Code. The draft Reporting Manual was published on the IPART website for consultation with all interested stakeholders and we have reviewed the submissions received.

We have now updated and developed the final Reporting Manual which is available on the IPART website.

The table below lists the formal submissions<sup>1</sup> received to the draft Reporting Manual and IPART's responses to the issues raised. The submissions are available in full on the IPART website.

## Stakeholder submissions and IPART's responses

Table 0.1

Summary of stakeholder submissions	IPART response
The ability to record excluded periods for calculation of fault repair times will require system upgrades that are part of an ongoing business-wide transformation program. Because this is a few years away from completion, we propose to provide total repair times inclusive of excluded periods and the relevant reasons.	<p>IPART notes the significance of the changes in reporting requirements and the need for system upgrades to facilitate this. However, under the Code, a Service Provider must provide the precise duration and reasons for excluded periods in order for the excluded periods to be deducted from the total repair time.</p> <p>If the Service Provider chooses to provide total repair times and these exceed the service standards under the Code, this will constitute a non-compliance that will be dealt with in accordance with IPART's <i>Compliance Enforcement and Policy</i>. IPART is willing to engage with Service Providers who are considering interim solutions to efficiently record excluded periods.</p>
The annual performance report may be better signed off by the CEO rather than the Chair of the Board or equivalent.	IPART considers that this is a reasonable suggestion and it aligns with the sign-off requirements for similar reports. This view is now reflected in the final Reporting Manual.

<sup>1</sup> With the exception of confidential submissions.

Summary of stakeholder submissions	IPART response
Annual and quarterly reports should be presented in a standardised template that is restricted in length (preferably one page). Longer reporting formats are unlikely to be a useful tool to help public lighting customers manage the service.	<p>The annual performance report is a summary of the required reporting under Clause 8 (a) of the Code.</p> <p>Clause 8 (e) of the Code requires that the quarterly report contains information about each individual fault and this has been accommodated in the standardised template. The template has been designed with filters to enable public lighting customers to select and view what is relevant for their use.</p>
Service Providers are likely to incur high costs to implement short-term upgrades to meet the new reporting requirements under the Code. Some of these reporting requirements relate to relatively few faults per year. These upgrade costs will ultimately be passed onto Customers in the form of future increased costs. IPART should consider the Service Providers' implementation plans and any interim manual/semi-manual reporting approaches so that these costs are minimised.	<p>The Reporting Manual reflects the standards that the Service Providers are required to meet as per the Code. Please note that <b>IPART does not have the authority to vary the requirements of the Code.</b></p> <p>IPART notes that it may be possible for Service Providers to consider implementing interim "manual or semi-manual approaches" to minimise costs in complying with the requirements of the Code. IPART is willing to engage with Service Providers who are developing interim solutions to efficiently provide the information required for compliance.</p> <p>Clause 13 of the Code permits Service Providers and their Public Lighting Customers to agree to vary any of the requirements of the Code, except clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8. If any such agreement is reached, Service Providers will then be required to report against the varied terms that they have agreed upon with their Public Lighting Customers.</p> <p>In accordance with IPART's Compliance and Enforcement Policy, IPART will consider the Service Providers' plans to achieve compliance with the Code when dealing with any non-compliances.</p>
The Reporting Manual is effective in its current state.	Noted
Councils strongly support the requirements of the Service Providers to comply with the Code. Without good reporting from the Service Providers, Councils cannot reasonably ensure that their duty of care to light roads and other public spaces is properly met.	Noted