



AIR NAVIGATION, AIRSPACE AND AERODROMES BRANCH

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NEW ENGLAND REZ TRANSMISSION PROJECT - REVISED SCOPING REPORT: CASA COMMENTS

The Department has sent CASA a request for advice in relation to the New England REZ Transmission Project. CASA has reviewed the Aviation Safety elements of the Revised Scoping Report ... relevant extracts as follows (not limited to):

6.6.1 The Study Corridor is located about 20 kilometres west and north of Armidale Airport and about 20 kilometres east of the Scone Memorial Airport.

6.6.3 assessment of any potential impacts on aviation operations including air traffic routes, aircraft operating heights, approach / departure procedures, radar interference, communication systems, navigation aids, use of emergency helicopter access, aerial baiting and culling, safe and efficient aerial application of agricultural fertilisers and pesticide.

Figure 3.2 shows indicative heights for the transmission line towers ... up to nearly 70m.

Appropriate Australian Standards are listed in the References: AS 3891.1:2021, Air Navigation – Cables and their supporting structures – Marking and safety requirements: Part 1 Marking of Overhead Cables and Supporting Structures. AS 3891.1:2021, Air Navigation – Cables and their supporting structures – Marking and safety requirements: Part 2: Low level aviation operations.

CASA has no issues with the Revised Scoping Report, which should form a satisfactory basis for the EIS. CASA is prepared to review the EIS (or any revised SEARs) at the appropriate stage.

General Context Comments:

The main issue risk is to get the right visibility markers on the wires in the right places. CASA does not advise on transmission line marker locations. Input would come from (not limited to) the following entities:

Landowners where crop spraying takes place and owners of uncertified Aeroplane Landing Areas (often the same entity). (CASA does not have a database of ALAs).

Crop spraying organisations if crop spraying takes place. Eg aerial contractors / pilots, the Aerial Application Association of Australia.

Organisations that would conduct or manage low level helicopter operations Eg RFS, NPWS ... doing fire control or pest baiting etc.

It appears that the transmission line/towers will not infringe any Obstacle Limitation Surfaces at a Certified Aerodrome by a comfortable margin. It is unlikely that the steel transmission towers would need to be obstacle marked or lit, unless requested by an aforementioned entity/authority.

The revisions to the Scoping Report do not have significant implications for Aviation Safety. Previous CASA comments/assessments (eg on SEARs in August 2024) apply.

Yours sincerely

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