

**Subject:** FW: Ergon job cuts force staff to walk off the job in Atherton  
**From:** Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
**To:** mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
**Date:** Monday, 18 January 2016, 9:27

Mate,

Just a heads up, our boys are seething over this issue, I see from the below that Stuey has been dealing with Dave on it and that he's now on leave and it's gone to Denise, there will be more action on this again this week from the feedback I'm getting via the troops, fyi

Simmo

**From:** David Shankey [mailto:Sch 4 CTPI]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 January 2016 8:20 AM  
**To:** Stuart Trill  
**Subject:** Re: Ergon job cuts force staff to walk off the job in Atherton

Will have to go to Denise this week. I am on leave.

we can't make the assessments required about operational safety - but an industry wide committee would at least have a view.

On Mon, 18 Jan 2016 at 7:39 AM, Stuart Trill <stuart@etu.org.au> wrote:

Yes it would be a good forum but it cant wait until then. The other issue is the attempt to extend the inspection cycles out to 6 years which will cause serious safety issues, its nothing more one Manager trying to make a name for himself by saving a buck at safety' s expense.

Our members have had a gutfull.

This will blow up again this week.

**From:** David Shankey [mailto:Sch 4 CTPI]  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 January 2016 3:25 PM

**To:** Stuart Traill  
**Subject:** Re: Ergon job cuts force staff to walk off the job in Atherton

Safety committee would be a good forum for this.

On Fri, Jan 15, 2016 at 2:57 PM, Stuart Traill <[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)> wrote:

Spot on

Sent from my iPhone

On 15 Jan 2016, at 2:50 pm, David Shankey <[redacted] Sch 4 CTPI > wrote:

Just to be clear - this is about not backfilling positions and not continuing with apprentices - noone has been made redundant today?

On Fri, Jan 15, 2016 at 2:01 PM, Stuart Traill <[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)> wrote:

Need this sorted mate

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dan Nancarrow <[media@etu.org.au](mailto:media@etu.org.au)>  
**Date:** 15 January 2016 1:02:14 pm AEST  
**Subject:** Ergon job cuts force staff to walk off the job in Atherton

Hi everyone,

Please find the attached release about Ergon staff walking off the job in Atherton due to job cuts:

**Ergon job cuts force staff to walk off the job in Atherton**

*ETU calling for government to ensure vacant positions are filled*

Ergon employees based in Atherton have walked off the job today in response to Ergon's plans to axe front line jobs in the Far North and across the state.

Approximately 30 electricians and linesmen from the Atherton depot walked off the job Friday afternoon in response to the company's decision to outsource more work at the expense of permanent front line positions.

Electrical Trades Union Organiser Michael Haire said management's actions were becoming increasingly dangerous with the company already falling behind in crucial maintenance programs due to existing front line job vacancies.

"We've got vacant positions across the area which Ergon are refusing to backfill and crews are running on empty trying to keep up," Mr Haire said.

"It's getting dangerous. We've got power poles and cross arms rotting through and failing thanks to extended inspection cycles, as well as important network hardware failing right across the state.

"Instead of dealing with the problem through a well-planned maintenance program supported by adequate internal staffing, Ergon's answer seems to be to slow the flow of work down even further and use that as justification to close out front line jobs.

"This practice is allowing assets to deteriorate to unsafe standards and we know that means they are more likely to fail.

Ergon workers have called on the State Government to intervene and ensure all vacant front line jobs are filled.

"If this State Government is serious about its pre-election commitment to front line jobs and rural Queensland then Mr Pitt or Mr Bailey should step in, see what's happening up here and direct Ergon to backfill these critical positions before someone is seriously hurt or killed," he said.

“If management’s answer to a failing network is to do less maintenance and get rid of front line jobs, I think we have the wrong people in these positions.”

Mr Haire said the Ergon staff who work on the state’s electricity assets, and the people of Queensland, deserved better.

“Failing electricity hardware can kill, it’s pretty simple,” he said.

**Further information please contact: Michael Haire or Dan Nancarrow**

Not Relevant

Dan Nancarrow

Media Officer

ETU Queensland and NT

Mob Not Relevant

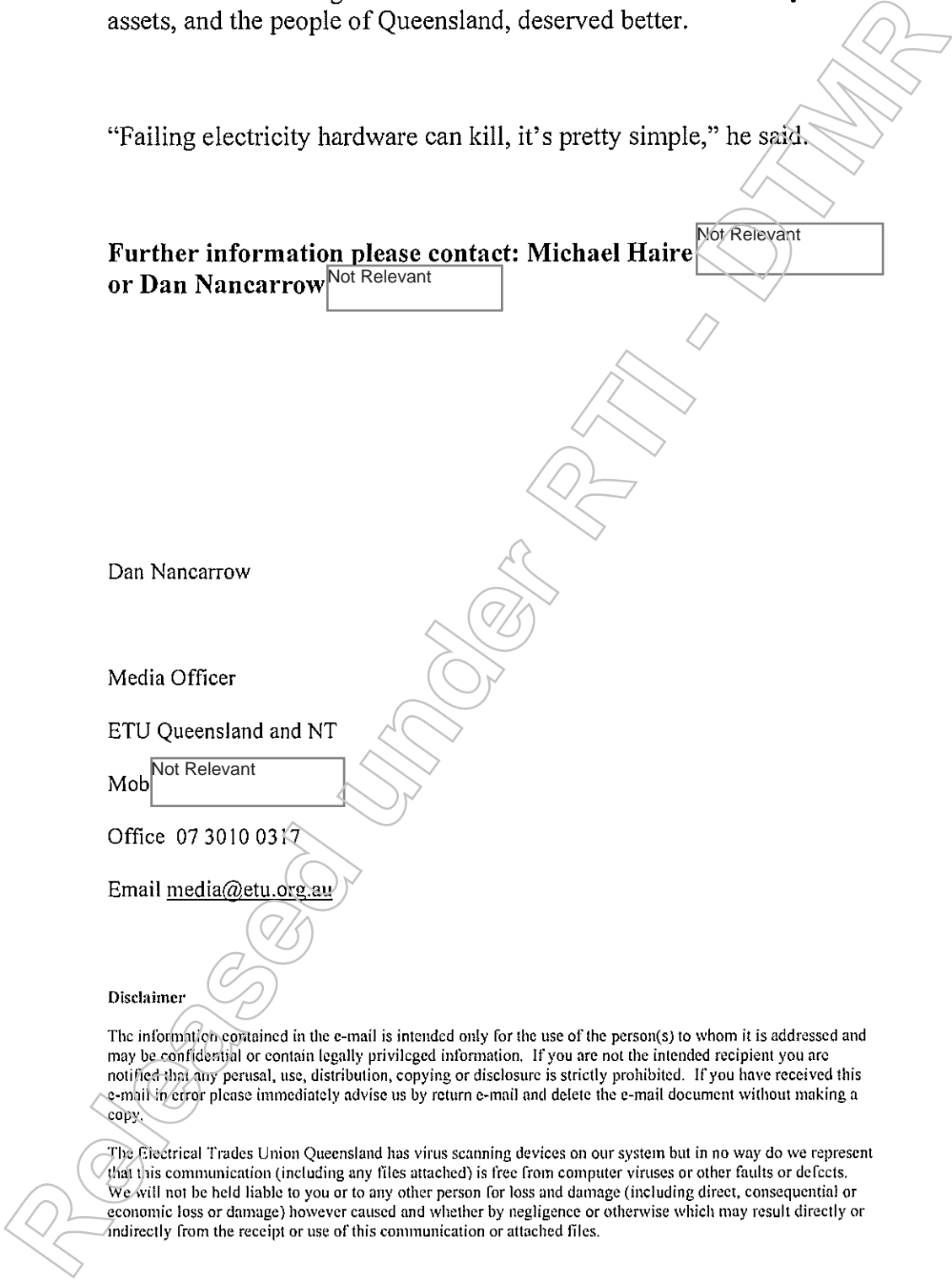
Office 07 3010 0317

Email [media@etu.org.au](mailto:media@etu.org.au)

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Subject: FW: Escalating Ergon Issue  
 From: Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
 To: mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
 Date: Tuesday, 19 January 2016, 12:33

From: Stuart Trill  
 Sent: Tuesday, 19 January 2016 12:30 PM  
 To: Peter Simpson (ETU) <simmo@etu.org.au>  
 Subject: Escalating Ergon Issue

Comrade,

Here is an update on Ergon.

Following the farcical proposal by Ergon to close out up to 80 existing vacancies, their refusal to give graduating apprentices jobs, their proposal to extend asset inspection cycles out to 6 years which will create serious safety issues due to failing assets, their proposal to slash NQ jobs by 14 and Fraser Burnett jobs by 13 and then their proposal to outsource 45 000 hrs of work and all Street Light maintenance on the basis that we don't have the internal resources we yesterday met with Sch 4 CTPI

Despite Sch 4 CTPI admitting that it was fault the way Ergon handled the lack of consultation and it should have been done better, below is their inadequate response CTPI

Ergon agreed to extend the one graduating apprentice in Atherton by 3 months post trade pending further discussions with FN Delegate Sch 4 CTPI regarding the vacant scheduler role and options that may open. Many more graduating apprentices are still in limbo.

Ergon Hub managers will arrange meetings with the Snr delegates by Feb 5 regarding the above vacancies and discuss crew numbers across each depot, These meetings have occurred in the past without acceptable outcomes so I see little coming out of these proposed meetings other than further delays.

Ergon will consider the option of a 6 month fixed term for unsuccessful graduating apprentices and respond within 4 weeks, further delays and no commitments.

Ergon will advise us if they still intend to go to contract for the 45000 hrs and street light maintenance by next week, further delays and they are likely to still propose outsourcing the equivalent of 70 jobs.

Ergon will formally consult with us on their proposal to extend inspection cycles( I have told them to get stuffed in this proposal, no way will we accept increasing the risk significantly to save a dollar)

Following that Ergon will consult with us on the forward works plan, we have been trying to get answers for months since the AER handed down its final determination. My view is they are juggling the figures to justify cutting frontline jobs despite not responding to our counter report in the attached email. We asked why Ergon is cutting field workers instead of reviewing the indirect costs coming out of the reduced budgets and the only response we received from Peter Billing was those costs are required to get the jobs ready.

We maintained our position that it is Ergon's responsibility to minimise indirect costs and maintain frontline field workers.

I further raised our concerns that if they close out the vacancies and cut these 27 jobs that Ergon will not have adequate resources to respond in a timely manner in the case of a major storm event. Sch 4 CTPI response was "you don't need resources in the area, you only need to be able to mobilise resources". Any Manager with a skerrick of industry knowledge would know that the first few days of a response are critical to have local staff with local knowledge on the ground making safe and then restoring supply to vital infrastructure. Mobilising workers and getting them operational takes at least 3-4 days at the very best due to flooding, mobilisation timeframes and distances, lack of vehicles or tooling if resources are flown in, lack of similar work practices. This is further exacerbated due to lack of local knowledge.

Not only are their proposals a safety issue they will also impact on Queensland Regional communities already suffering if and when we get hit by a storm, let alone the further loss of jobs.

The Premier and Energy Minister were only on the news this week talking about fast tracking projects for employment opportunities in NQ following Palmers cuts in the same week Ergon is proposing job cuts at Qld expense.

As a result Atherton walked off the job in disgust last week and endorsed this resolution,

*"We the ETU members from Atherton Depot upon hearing a report from our Union representatives regarding the alleged reduced works programme and the intended plan by Ergon to reduce internal resources demand that self-interested Ergon management urgently and genuinely consult with ETU representatives to address the current critical resources that are leading to serious safety issues.*

*Furthermore we call on the Shareholding Ministers to ensure that the maintenance standard of the Electricity Network is maintained to long established standards and that frontline critical positions are backfilled and maintained to ensure adequate resources are available to respond to major storm events".*

I am sure this will escalate to other areas based on the volume of calls I am receiving by ETU members that have had a gut full of the self-serving Senior Managers looking to square up on us following the defeat of their LNP mates.

Cheers,

Stuart Traill

Supply Industry Coordinator

Electrical Trades Union

Queensland

M Not Relevant

F. (07) 40513502

[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)

[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)

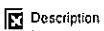
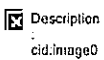


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[www.etuyes.com](http://www.etuyes.com)

Or call

1800ETUYES



[www.not4sale.org.au](http://www.not4sale.org.au)

Peter, Jeff,

Attached is a report outlining our concerns that Ergon is overstating the impacts of the AER final determination in an attempt to reduce maintenance costs and associated internal resources.

It is our view that Ergon's intent to extend inspection cycles, reduce maintenance, close internal vacancies and reduce field workers will lead to an increased risk to the public and our members.

Can this be placed on the agenda for the next Consultation forum and further we request that Ergon provides responses to the issues raised in this report?

Cheers,

**Stuart Traill**

Supply Industry Coordinator

Electrical Trades Union

Queensland

M

F (07) 40513502

[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)

[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)

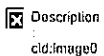


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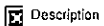
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Description

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#### Attachments

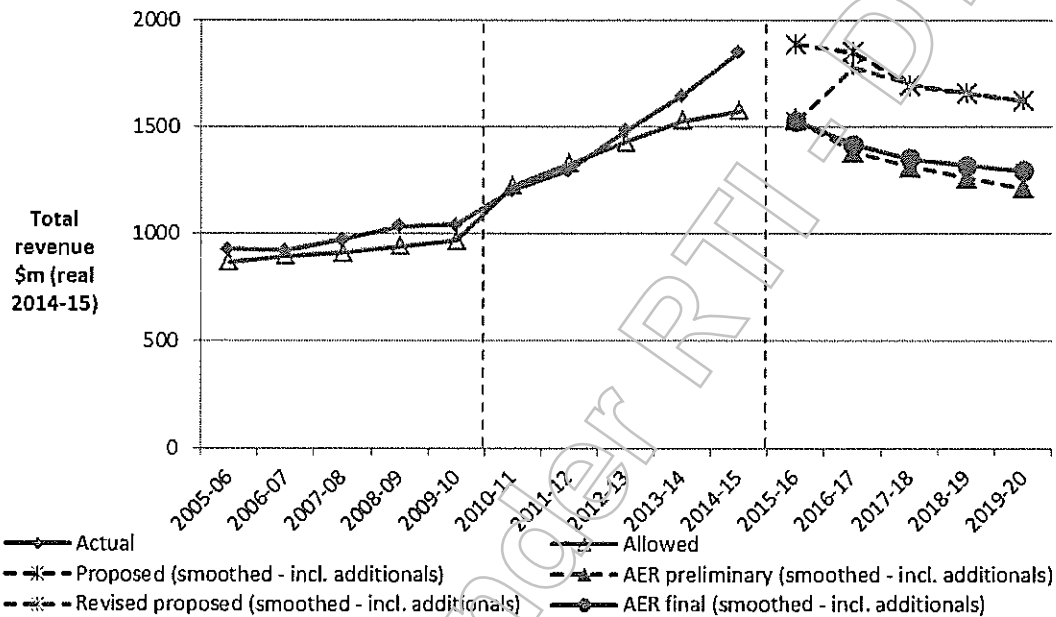
- . (903.96 KB)
- image001.png (5.07 KB)
- image002.jpg (1.48 KB)
- image003.jpg (1.08 KB)
- image004.png (154.71 KB)
- The AER determination and what it really means (2).pdf (497.22 KB)
- image001.png (5.07 KB)
- image002.jpg (1.48 KB)
- image003.jpg (1.08 KB)
- image004.png (154.71 KB)

## The AER determination and what it really means

The 2015 AER determination allows Ergon Energy to recover \$6,295.4 million (\$6.2954 Billion) from its customers over five years commencing 1 July 2015. Ergon Energy estimated that it required \$7,798.2 million over the 2015–20 regulatory control period in its revised submission. The final determination allows for a Totex / Total expenditure decrease of 19.3 per cent (\$1,502.8 million over 5 years or \$300.56 million per year) less than Ergon Energy's revised proposal and 23.6% less than Ergon Energy's original proposal to the AER.

It is important to note that whilst the AER sets revenue determinations it is largely up to the business to determine how the money allocated is best utilised.

I will attempt to articulate various reasons in this report as to why the determination should not see a quantum shift in the way the company operates by providing areas that will realise many of the reductions that are required under this determination.



The AER determination is based on three main criteria:-

- Rate of return / cost of borrowing / return on investment
- Operating expenditure (Opex)
- Capital expenditure (Capex)

### Rate of Return

The AER determination points to an improved investment environment now compared to the last submission pre 2010 as the world was in the midst of, or recovering from the Global Financial Crisis. This obviously translates to lower financing costs. In the 2010 final decision, the AER approved a rate of return of 9.72 per cent. This has been reduced to 6.01 per cent.

Forecast demand has declined significantly from the previous submission where it was expected that Qld demand would grow significantly. Funding in this determination is based on a 1% growth over 5 years. Whilst this may appear insufficient, it would not be inconsistent with recent years and it is a measure that does feed itself as with demand growth comes increased revenue opportunity.

Changes to the Queensland Government's reliability standards have meant that less investment is required. From 1 July 2014 the reliability standards, amongst other things, reduced the need to build new infrastructure for reliability purposes.

*This measure is largely out of the business' sphere of control*

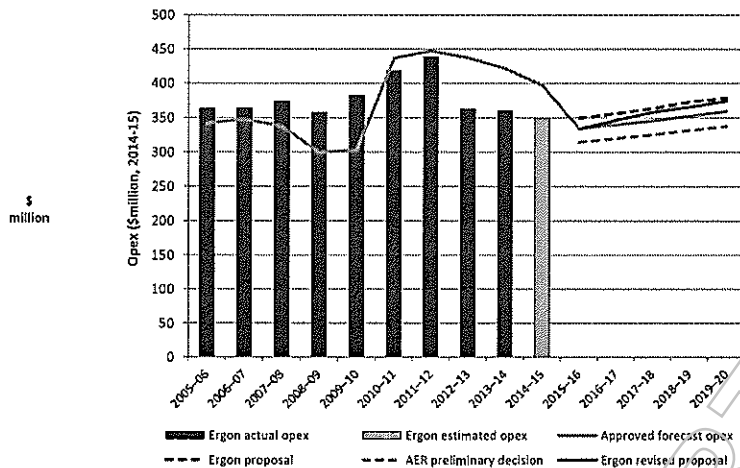


## Operating expenditure (Opex)

Opex includes forecast operating, maintenance and other non-capital costs that Ergon Energy is likely to require during the 2015–20 regulatory control period for the efficient operation of its network.

The final decision allows Ergon Energy to recover \$1757.9 million for Opex. This is 4.5 per cent lower (\$83.9 million over 5 years or \$16.78 million per year) than the \$1841.8 million Ergon Energy proposed.

AER final decision compared to Ergon Energy's past and proposed opex (\$million, 2014-15)



The AER determination clearly spells out the obligation on Ergon Energy to operate its network safely and comply with its obligations and service standards.

The AER did not accept Ergon Energy's claim for \$66 million for a new insurance policy relating to cyclones and storms. They considered Ergon Energy has not sufficiently demonstrated it would be more efficient to purchase the new policy rather than to retain the risk itself. In recent significant storm events a pass through trigger was reached which allows Ergon Energy to pass through costs to the government but that option was not taken according to Ian McLeod at a recent Disaster Management Forum. This would suggest there is sufficient flex in the funding arrangements to be able to self-fund repairs after natural disasters, of which we were exposed to a few in the last period.

The AER determination points to the fact that the "actual" Opex reduction is at about 1.4% on the previous 2 years which would point to reductions through capital works and demand tapering. This would suggest that without too much interference the business was tracking to achieve what the AER has determined.

Notwithstanding operating efficiencies can be found very easily when you consider that,

- Ergon Energy embarked on a record amount of work sent to the contract market in the last financial year of the last Regulatory period which would have inflated 5 year spend averages (actual average spends without this bundle would probably go very close to achieving the AER requirement). Ergon Energy engaged the market for an additional 400,000 hours on top of the historically high 300,000 hours that had already been committed to contract for the 2014/15 financial year. It was the ETU's position that this work
  - Should remain in house and be serviced by internal labour.
  - Ergon Energy would not get value for money in a market that was already satisfied
  - It would not be in any contractor's interests to resource up to deliver such a big parcel of additional work for such a short period and mobilisation / demobilisation costs and efforts would be prohibitive to providing efficient outcomes.
  - Ergon Energy would not find the spare resource to deliver on this giant parcel of work. This was proved to be correct with the combined Schedule of Rates (SOR) contractors only delivering 417,000 hours out of a possible 700,000 hours, which has in turn meant that work parcels have continued into this Regulatory period.

Bearing in mind the Schedule Of Rates (SOR) contractor's hours have reduced from 417,000 hours last financial year to 180,000 hours this financial year and if you used a rough figure for contract engagement of \$120 / hour the business has saved \$28,440,000 by simply reducing contract hours in this financial year alone. Going forward if contractor hours remained at the 180,000 hours mark instead of the previous 300,000 hours, this would equate to \$14,400,000 / year in savings and the total saved for the Regulatory period would amount to \$86,040,000 (this is \$28,440,000 + (4 x \$14,400,000)). This already achieves the Operational Expenditure cut outlined in the determination, whilst still

maintaining a responsible contract presence.

With a reduction in CICW and NICW forecast it would be prudent of the business to investigate all contracted tasks with a view to returning them to their internal workforce. For example Bulk Lamp Replacements, Pole maintenance and even Veg maintenance (especially in remote areas) would be cost effective to return in house in many areas. There would be mobilisation and works programing efficiencies that would deliver tangible cost savings to the electricity users of Queensland.

With a reduction in contract hours there is a reduction in the amount of total hours worked in line with the intent of using contractors to allow for peaks and troughs. At a point in time where the Ergon Energy rumour mill is suggesting there will be redundancies offered to staff, by demobilising contractors you save the costs of internal staff redundancies, the cost of unproductive / disruptive times and there will be a reduction in equipment required during construction that will also see real savings. I have heard that there was a budget surplus of tens of millions (\$53,000,000) of dollars over the last period that was set aside for Distribution Transformers but was not spent / required due to the taper in demand. Although this technically would come under and is mentioned in Capex savings, it is still pertinent to the overall picture.

- If Ergon Energy returned Customer Service Meter Query / Meter Maintain work back in house as the ETU has been advocating, it would serve to increase internal resource productivity and efficiency without an increase to the FTE (as those current staff were doing that work until last year when it was sent to contract and they could in most areas comfortably cover it internally at this point). Conservative estimates (excluding unproductive time losses and overheads for administering the contract) would be say 12,000 service orders x \$70 per order x 5 years = **\$4,200,000** in savings.
- It is important to add that Ergon Energy seemed very intent to pay a Contractor to schedule their own work from an internal position in the business at \$20,000 / month. This arrangement continued for some time and definitely after the original AER submission, so it would be assumed that the business was preparing to pay that fee ongoing and as such it was costed. Simply by ending that arrangement Ergon Energy saved themselves 20,000 x 12 months x 5 years = **\$1,200,000**
- The AER determination is very sympathetic to unregulated revenue opportunities and there is a very real and instant opportunity for Ergon Energy to extend into being the Electrical Contractor for Contestable URD (Urban Residential Developments) subdivisions. Once again with minimal effort of a spreadsheet estimate tool the internal staff could compete in the contestable market for a share in that unregulated revenue. If this accounted for 1 months work in each of the legacy areas for internal staff / year. This would mean that the business has saved an additional 3,000 hours of labour costs per year or 2 FTE's. Obviously as the market picks up the opportunities increase. Assuming both FTE's are at pay grade 6.2 and factoring in pay increases stipulated in the UCA but only up to the expiry of the UCA (then assumed at no pay increase for the remaining 2 years) this would equate to a saving of **\$795,460** over 5 years.
- If you look at the Opex expenses at the Senior management level and assume savings as a result of a merger on the following basis Ergon Energy Annual Financial Statements 2015, you will notice that Ergon Energy spent \$3,780,000 on Executive manager's entitlements in the year ending 30 June 2015. If you save one level of executive managers out of the merger (and do not increase the remaining executive salaries as a result) then the business will save **\$18,900,000** over the 5 years of the determination.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

### NOTE 26: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL DISCLOSURES (CONTINUED)

NAME	2015 FTE	2014 FTE	2015 FTE	2014 FTE	2015 FTE	2014 FTE
Mike Hutchens, Acting CFO <sup>(5)</sup>	311	28	19	9	-	367
Mal Leech, EGM – People and Shared Services <sup>(6)</sup>	309	41	19	11	-	380
Peter Billing, EGM – Customer Service	357	52	19	17	-	445
David Edmunds, EGM – Network Optimisation <sup>(7)</sup>	357	9	19	21	-	406
Roslyn Baker, EGM – Retail	346	41	19	25	-	431
Gordon Taylor, EGM – Strategy and Revenue Transformation <sup>(8)</sup>	608	101	19	3	191	922
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>3,780</b>

- Similarly if at the Board Level we condense two into one and assume savings based on what Ergon Energy's current Boards salaries are, then the business achieves \$344,000 x 5 years = \$1,720,000 in savings over the life of the AER determination in Board remuneration alone.

Gary Humphrys	48	31	11	10	-	-	6	3	65	44
John Gardner	39	31	15	10	4	4	5	3	63	48
John Love	39	31	10	0	3	2	5	4	57	46
Gary Stanford	25	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	31	-
Malcolm Hall-Brown	66	70	12	17	1	-	7	8	86	104
Annabel Dolphin	10	31	3	10	-	-	1	3	14	44
Rowena McNally	10	31	3	0	-	-	1	4	14	44
Helen Stanton	10	28	3	0	-	10	1	3	14	48
<b>Total compensation</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>378</b>

No further fees were paid to Directors, other than the amounts disclosed in the table.

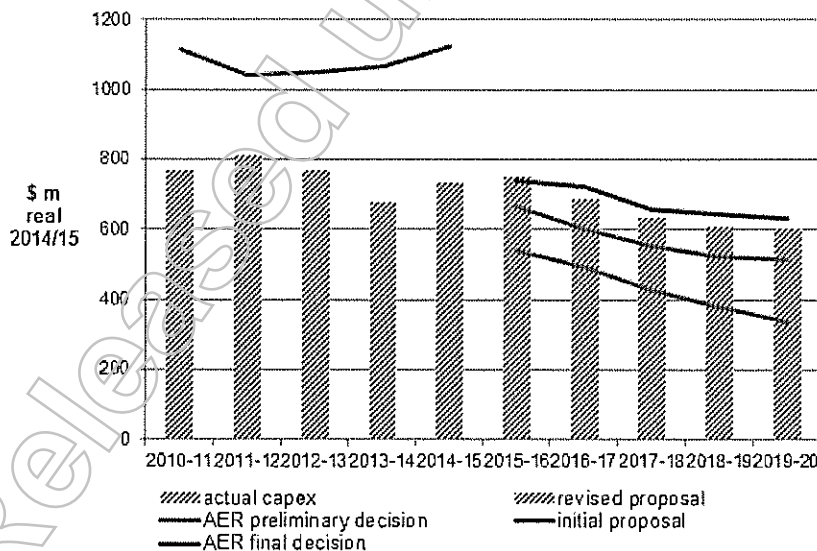
Total Bolder efficiencies if realised above equates to \$112,855,460 over the Regulatory Period when the business was only looking for \$83,900,000. (\$28,955,460 in savings more than is required under this determination)

## Capital expenditure

Capex refers to the cost of building new facilities or replacing existing infrastructure. Factors that influence our required level of capex include the age and condition of existing assets. The AER determination is adamant that network safety, obligations and service standards must not be compromised.

The total forecast capex of \$2858.1 million (\$2014-15) for Ergon Energy's 2015-20 regulatory control period. This is 12.9 per cent lower than Ergon Energy's proposal of \$3282.4 million for capex. This equates to \$424,000,000 over 5 years or \$84,860,000 per year.

AER final decision compared to Ergon Energy's past and proposed capex (\$million, 2014-15)



Ergon Energy is at the behest of demand to some extent with regards to capital investment. The taper of demand however also addresses the Capex concerns and services the reduced budget requirement. During the last Regulatory Period the business set up the SPA Collaborative Partnership to build up to 80 new Major Substation projects. Of them, due to the taper of demand only about a quarter were delivered. As Major Zone Subs, feeder

Bays, CB's and related infrastructure is quite expensive, just by failing / deferring the immediate need to do this work, Ergon would have saved hundreds of Millions of dollars.

The key to this category is prudent demand management, which will smooth peak demand investment. The flip side is to ensure that the network is safe, reliable and meeting the needs of its customers. This is where sensible projected life costs are factored into decision making.

There is a recent series of failed investment strategies would have to be considered at odds with a prudent investment mantra, with the example of replacing padmount transformer shells for \$18,000 on a leaking padmount transformer that is nearing end of life, because a total replacement would cost \$45,000. If the shell was going to increase the asset life expectancy proportionally (say an extra 12 years) then this may be a prudent investment, but to put an expensive band aid on the problem that does not extend life, whilst waiting for it to fail in service is neither smart nor responsible investment. This is an area where Ergon Energy can constructively address the reduced Capex budget.

As mentioned above a reduced demand will in itself serve to save the company money in budgeted equipment / stores areas, as we will be using less of them. When you consider the stores turnover amounts this will amount to tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars in savings over the coming regulatory period.

Over the previous Regulatory period we saw massive investment in new depots and offices across the state. This must have accounted for tens of millions of dollars. This investment going forward will cease and the repairs and corrective maintenance obligations will be lessened ongoing which will also deliver substantial savings.

The obvious major efficiency though will be realised through a proper merger of Ergon and Energex, which will offer the opportunity for the business to leverage of joint initiatives, purchasing power resulting in substantial savings and single point support streams. I won't attempt to cost these efficiencies but I have heard the government talking about hundreds of millions of dollars in savings.

<https://www.aer.gov.au/networks-pipelines/determinations-access-arrangements/ergon-energy-determination-2015-2020>

Released under FOIA

Subject: FW: Escalating Ergon Issue  
 From: Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
 To: mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
 Date: Tuesday, 19 January 2016, 12:43

Fyi

From: Peter Simpson (ETU)  
 Sent: Tuesday, 19 January 2016 12:42 PM  
 To: 'Sch 4 CTPI @ministerial.qld.gov.au' <Sch 4 CTPI @ministerial.qld.gov.au>  
 Subject: FW: Escalating Ergon Issue  
 Importance: High

Premier,

Our members have asked me to send you correspondence directly in relation to the cutting of front line jobs within Ergon Energy. As you'd appreciate, I don't write to you very often and won't unless I'm passing on concerns on behalf of our membership, that is, after all, my job. I'll also make it my practice of raising such issues where I believe there is an potential industrial issue developing, such as this case.

As you may be aware our members at Atherton walked off the job over this issue last week and a meeting between Ergon management and the ETU yesterday was a wasted exercise in attempting to resolve it.

In light of the issues developing in Townsville and surrounds, this issue is also crucial, as we have many unfilled front line jobs that Ergon are now attempting to close out, to the detriment of local regional communities, particularly in the North and Bundaberg areas. Our members are growing increasingly frustrated by Ergon managements attempts to downgrade their community obligations in this regard.

I have been working closely with the Minister on this issue and appreciate you have bigger issues to deal with but I think it's important you're aware of it and our members are demanding we raise it with you, hence the email.

A summary of yesterdays' discussions below, for your info.

Simmo

From: Stuart Traill  
 Sent: Tuesday, 19 January 2016 12:30 PM  
 To: Peter Simpson (ETU) <simmo@etu.org.au>  
 Subject: Escalating Ergon Issue

Comrade,

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Ergon agreed to extend the one graduating apprentice in Atherton by 3 months post trade pending further discussions with FN Delegate Sch 4 CTPI regarding the vacant scheduler role and options that may open. Many more graduating apprentices are still in limbo.

Ergon Hub managers will arrange meetings with the Snr delegates by Feb 5 regarding the above vacancies and discuss crew numbers across each depot, These meetings have occurred in the past without acceptable outcomes so I see little coming out of these proposed meetings other than further delays.

Ergon will consider the option of a 6 month fixed term for unsuccessful graduating apprentices and respond within 4 weeks, further delays and no commitments.

Ergon will advise us if they still intend to go to contract for the 45000 hrs and street light maintenance by next week, further delays and they are likely to still propose outsourcing the equivalent of 70 jobs.

Ergon will formally consult with us on their proposal to extend inspection cycles( I have told them to get stuffed in this proposal, no way will we accept increasing the risk significantly to save a dollar)

Following that Ergon will consult with us on the forward works plan, we have been trying to get answers for months since the AER handed down its final determination. My view is they are juggling the figures to justify cutting frontline jobs despite not responding to our counter report in the attached email. We asked why Ergon is cutting field workers instead of reviewing the indirect costs coming out of the reduced budgets and the only response we received from Peter Billing was those costs are required to get the jobs ready.

We maintained our position that it is Ergon' s responsibility to minimise indirect costs and maintain frontline field workers.

I further raised our concerns that if they close out the vacancies and cut these 27 jobs that Ergon will not have adequate resources to respond in a timely manner in the case of a major storm event. Sch 4 CTPI response was "you don't need resources in the area, you only need to be able to mobilise resources". Any Manager with a skerrick of industry knowledge would know that the first few days of a response are critical to have local staff with local knowledge on the ground making safe and then restoring supply to vital infrastructure. Mobilising workers and getting them operational takes at least 3-4 days at the very best due to flooding, mobilisation timeframes and distances, lack of vehicles or tooling if resources are flown in, lack of similar work practices. This is further exacerbated due to lack of local knowledge.

Not only are their proposals a safety issue they will also impact on Queensland Regional communities already suffering if and when we get hit by a storm, let alone the further loss of jobs.

The Premier and Energy Minister were only on the news this week talking about fast tracking projects for employment opportunities in NQ following Palmers cuts in the same week Ergon is proposing job cuts at Qld expense.

As a result Atherton walked off the job in disgust last week and endorsed this resolution,

*"We the ETU members from Atherton Depot upon hearing a report from our Union representatives regarding the alleged reduced works programme and the intended plan by Ergon to reduce internal resources demand that self-interested Ergon management urgently and genuinely consult with ETU representatives to address the current critical resources that are leading to serious safety issues.*

*Furthermore we call on the Shareholding Ministers to ensure that the maintenance standard of the Electricity Network is maintained to long established standards and that frontline critical positions are backfilled and maintained to ensure adequate resources are available to respond to major storm events".*

I am sure this will escalate to other areas based on the volume of calls I am receiving by ETU members that have had a gut full of the self-serving Senior Managers looking to square up on us following the defeat of their LNP mates.

Cheers,

Stuart Trail  
Supply Industry Coordinator  
Electrical Trades Union

Queensland

M.

F. (07) 40513502

[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)

[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)

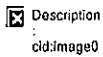


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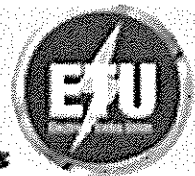
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Peter, Jeff,

Attached is a report outlining our concerns that Ergon is overstating the impacts of the AER final determination in an attempt to reduce maintenance costs and associated internal resources.

It is our view that Ergon's intent to extend inspection cycles, reduce maintenance, close internal vacancies and reduce field workers will lead to an increased risk to the public and our members.

Can this be placed on the agenda for the next Consultation forum and further we request that Ergon provides responses to the issues raised in this report?

Cheers,

Stuart Trail

Supply Industry Coordinator

Electrical Trades Union

Queensland

M

F. (07) 40513502

[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)

[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)



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Description  
cid:image0

Description



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**Attachments**

- . (903.96 KB)
- image001.png (5.07 KB)
- image002.jpg (1.48 KB)
- image003.jpg (1.08 KB)
- image004.png (154.71 KB)
- The AER determination and what it really means (2).pdf (497.22 KB)
- image001.png (5.07 KB)
- image002.jpg (1.48 KB)
- image003.jpg (1.08 KB)
- image004.png (154.71 KB)



Subject: FW: Ergon Issue Update  
 From: Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
 To: mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
 Date: Wednesday, 20 January 2016, 12:57

Mate fyi

From: Stuart Trill  
 Sent: Wednesday, 20 January 2016 12:54 PM  
 To: Peter Simpson (ETU) <simmo@etu.org.au>  
 Subject: Ergon Issue Update

Simmo,

Fair chance Ergon are running the argument that there was a reduction in the Capex by 12.9 % and the Opex by 4.6% and therefore they need to do this. We believe there is efficiency gains that can occur to minimise the cuts proposed by Ergon if they had a genuine intent to reduce indirect costs within both the capital and operational areas of expenditure.

We dispute their argument that the outstanding vacancies are all in the S/S space, there are many vacancies across various sized depots and across not only S/S's but also Customer Service and Lines. Despite many meetings with Delegates and commitments that they would backfill critical vacancies we have to date been unsuccessful getting any real recruitment other than a few here and there. *This is not the major issue and can be dealt with through genuine consultation to resolve critical shortages across depots and in Live Line crews.*

Ergon's proposal to not only close out existing vacancies but further cut 14 field based positions in Tropical North and 13 in Fraser Burnett is unacceptable and will reduce frontline staffing levels below critical numbers particularly during storm season.

Sch 4 CTPI

statements that " You don't need local resources available, you only need to be able to mobilise resources" demonstrates his total lack of understanding of how critical local resources with local knowledge is in the first couple of days prior to additional resource mobilisation is for the make safe works followed immediately by restoring supply to vital infrastructure. We have traditionally had problems with resource mobilisation without local knowledge, vehicles, equipment, accommodation availability and consistent work practices.

In addition to the closed out positions we also have the proposed 27 cuts and the proposal to outsource 45 000 hrs of work and all street light maintenance. *This we won't accept.*

Currently Ergon has consulted and outsourced 180 000 hrs of work per financial year, they have to consult on anything above that. The proposed additional 45 000 hrs is only for the remainder of the 15/16 year, if we agreed to this they will likely again come to us next financial year with either the same or an increased proposal. This proposal is equivalent to approx. 70 FTE's. The 45000 hrs and the Street Light maintenance is additional work that is of an ongoing nature that could and should be used to offset any proposed reductions. Their justification is that Ergon don't have the internal resources to do the proposed work, of course the resources aren't available if they refuse to backfill vacancies and cut internal resources. Despite us consistently arguing for meter query and meter maintain work to be kept in house to fully utilise current staff Ergon has to date refused, further justifying the proposed staff reductions.

Following the escalating issue we met with Ergon on Monday. Below are the outcomes, whilst there is a shift on some minor issues the rest of their commitments are purely delays.

Despite Sch 4 CTPI admitting that it was his fault the way Ergon handled the lack of consultation and it should have been done better, below is their inadequate responses.

Ergon agreed to extend the one graduating apprentice in Atherton by 3 months post trade pending further discussions with FN Delegate Sch 4 CTPI regarding the vacant scheduler role and options that may open. Many more graduating apprentices are still in limbo.

Ergon Hub managers will arrange meetings with the Snr delegates by Feb 5 regarding the above vacancies and discuss crew numbers across each depot, These meetings have occurred in the past without acceptable outcomes so I see little coming out of these proposed meetings other than further delays.

Ergon have advised they will send through the list of depots that have establishment numbers of 7 or less that they will either maintain or recruit to the current establishment numbers. If they are prepared to maintain numbers in small depots a legitimate question is why won't they do the same for the major depots that service a large numbers of customers

Ergon will consider the option of a 6 month fixed term for unsuccessful graduating apprentices and respond within 4 weeks, further delays and no commitments for the apprentices graduating in the next two weeks.

Ergon will formally consult with us on their proposal to extend inspection cycles( I have told them to get stuffed in this proposal, no way will we accept increasing the risk significantly to save a dollar). *This proposal could be withdrawn and referred to the eventual Industry committee due to the broader Industry impacts.*

Following that Ergon will consult with us on the forward works plan, we have been trying to get answers for months since the AER handed down its final determination. My view is they are juggling the figures to justify cutting frontline jobs despite not responding to our counter report previously sent to them questioning the validity of their proposed cuts.

We maintain our position that it is Ergon' s responsibility to minimise indirect costs to ensure that we can maintain critical frontline field workers.

I have attached my email of demands on behalf of our members that will hopefully get this back on track.

Cheers,

Stuart Trill  
Supply Industry Coordinator  
Electrical Trades Union  
Queensland  
M. Not Relevant  
F. (07) 40513502  
[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)  
[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)

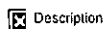
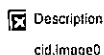


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Jordo,

Our Position is that our Senior Delegates remain committed and available to meet with Hub Managers to discuss local works plans and associated resourcing on the basis that the Managers are genuine in their discussions. We are sick of having meetings only to be ignored by Managers hiding behind the AER argument with no substantiating facts.

At a broader Ergon level I am reluctant to talk to Ergon based on Ergon's refusal to comply with its consultation obligations in the UCA unless,

1. Ergon withdraws its current proposal to increase inspection cycles out to 6 years, this is an Industry wide issue and should be dealt with on an Industry wide basis.
2. Ergon withdraws its proposal to cut 14 jobs in Tropical North and 13 jobs in Fraser Burnett.
3. Ergon withdraws its current proposal to outsource an additional 45000 hrs of work to Contract for the 15/16 year that could be done internally.
4. Ergon withdraws its current proposal to outsource the Street Light Maintenance work that could be done internally.

The above will demonstrate that Ergon is serious about its obligations to provide frontline resources and committed to its obligations to genuinely consult with our Union.

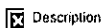
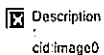
Please advise,

Stuart Truill  
 Supply Industry Coordinator  
 Electrical Trades Union  
 Queensland  
 M. Not Relevant  
 F. (07) 40513502  
[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)  
[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)



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Attachments

- . (235.78 KB)
- image001.png (5.07 KB)
- image002.jpg (1.48 KB)
- image003.jpg (1.08 KB)
- image004.png (154.71 KB)

Released under RTI - DTMR

- image001.png (5.07 KB)
- image002.jpg (1.48 KB)
- image003.jpg (1.08 KB)
- image004.png (154.71 KB)

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Subject: Fwd: Our Demands as Discussed  
 From: Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
 To: denise.spinks [Sch 4 CTPI] mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
 Date: Wednesday, 20 January 2016, 16:14

More BS, got blokes now that have no work in FNQ from next week! This is 1985 revisited, although we will win this one

Regards,

Peter Simpson  
 State Secretary  
 Electrical Trades Union  
 Queensland  
 M [Not Relevant]  
 F. (07) 3844 9851  
[simmo@etu.org.au](mailto:simmo@etu.org.au)  
[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Stuart Traill <[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)>  
 Date: 20 January 2016 at 3:44:33 PM AEST  
 To: "JORDON Paul (WB)" <[paul.jordon@ergon.com.au](mailto:paul.jordon@ergon.com.au)>  
 Ce: "COLEMAN Troy (NQ)" <[troy.coleman@ergon.com.au](mailto:troy.coleman@ergon.com.au)>, "DOWD Daniel (NQ) (Daniel.Dowd@ergon.com.au)" <[Daniel.Dowd@ergon.com.au](mailto:Daniel.Dowd@ergon.com.au)>, "Peter Simpson (ETU)" <[simmo@etu.org.au](mailto:simmo@etu.org.au)>, Michael Haire <[mhaire@etu.org.au](mailto:mhaire@etu.org.au)>, Wal <[wal@etu.org.au](mailto:wal@etu.org.au)>, daniel <[daniel@etu.org.au](mailto:daniel@etu.org.au)>, "BLOOM Greg (NQ) (Greg.Bloom@ergon.com.au)" <[Greg.Bloom@ergon.com.au](mailto:Greg.Bloom@ergon.com.au)>, "CONWAY Jason (CA) (Jason.Conway@ergon.com.au)" <[Jason.Conway@ergon.com.au](mailto:Jason.Conway@ergon.com.au)>, Ergon - McGAW Chris <[Chris.McGaw@Ergon.com.au](mailto:Chris.McGaw@Ergon.com.au)>, Hilly <[Robert.Hill@ergon.com.au](mailto:Robert.Hill@ergon.com.au)>, "RIX Ian (MK) ([ian.rix@ergon.com.au](mailto:ian.rix@ergon.com.au))" <[ian.rix@ergon.com.au](mailto:ian.rix@ergon.com.au)>, "scott.sologinkin@ergon.com.au" <[scott.sologinkin@ergon.com.au](mailto:scott.sologinkin@ergon.com.au)>  
 Subject: RE: Our Demands as Discussed

Jordo,

As a follow up to our earlier conversation regarding the Cairns crews not having any work from next week onwards it is further frustrating the members when they see Ventia crews working on Toogood Rd.

We need answers asap because our members frustrations are boiling over.

Cheers,

Stuey,

---

From: Stuart Traill  
 Sent: Wednesday, 20 January 2016 11:26 AM  
 To: JORDON Paul (WB)  
 Ce: 'COLEMAN Troy (NQ) (Daniel.Dowd@ergon.com.au); Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au); Michael Haire (mhaire@etu.org.au); Wal; daniel; 'BLOOM Greg (NQ) (Greg.Bloom@ergon.com.au)'; 'CONWAY Jason (CA) (Jason.Conway@ergon.com.au)'; Ergon - McGAW Chris; 'Hilly'; 'RIX Ian (MK) ([ian.rix@ergon.com.au](mailto:ian.rix@ergon.com.au))'; 'scott.sologinkin@ergon.com.au'  
 Subject: Our Demands as Discussed

Jordo,

Our Position is that our Senior Delegates remain committed and available to meet with Hub Managers to discuss local works plans and associated resourcing on the basis that the Managers are genuine in their discussions. We are sick of having meetings only to be ignored by Managers hiding behind the AER argument with no substantiating facts.

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4. Ergon withdraws its current proposal to outsource the Street Light Maintenance work that could be done internally.

The above will demonstrate that Ergon is serious about its obligations to provide frontline resources and committed to its obligations to genuinely consult with our Union.

Please advise,

Stuart Trull

Supply Industry Coordinator

Electrical Trades Union

Queensland

M. Not Relevant

F. (07) 40513502

[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)

[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)

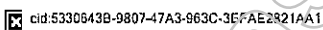
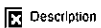
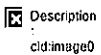


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**Attachments**

- image001.png (5.07 KB)
- image002.jpg (1.48 KB)
- image003.jpg (1.08 KB)
- image004.png (154.71 KB)

Subject: Re: Our Demands as Discussed  
From: Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
To: mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
Date: Thursday, 21 January 2016, 20:29

A proper #£<{{# non union EBA, went desk to desk standing over staff, then when you guys got in, put their hands up for the union deal, we objected, strongly for obvious reasons

Sch 4 CTPI

Don't know what piece of paper you need to be a CEO mate but there's some half decent ones in the other (not Sch 4 CTPI camp) next level down

Regards,

Peter Simpson  
State Secretary  
Electrical Trades Union  
Queensland  
M. Not Relevant  
F. (07) 3844 9851  
simmo@etu.org.au  
www.etu.org.au

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On 21 Jan 2016, at 8:05 PM, Mark Bailey <mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Roger that. M

On Thursday, 21 January 2016, 19:53, Peter Simpson (ETU) <simmo@etu.org.au> wrote:

Googled that chic, she was a #^\*\*%) during the EBA mate, knew I knew her name from somewhere

Regards,

Peter Simpson  
State Secretary  
Electrical Trades Union  
Queensland  
M. Not Relevant  
F. (07) 3844 9851  
simmo@etu.org.au  
<http://www.etu.org.au/>

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On 21 Jan 2016, at 7:26 PM, Mark Bailey <[mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk)> wrote:

Good stuff! M

On Thursday, 21 January 2016, 15:23, Peter Simpson (ETU) <[simmo@etu.org.au](mailto:simmo@etu.org.au)> wrote:

Sorted mate

Thanks eh

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "JORDON Paul (WB)" <[paul.jordon@ergon.com.au](mailto:paul.jordon@ergon.com.au)>  
**Date:** 21 January 2016 at 2:37:49 PM AEST  
**To:** Stuart Traill <[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)>  
**Cc:** "Peter Simpson (ETU)" <[simmo@etu.org.au](mailto:simmo@etu.org.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Our Demands as Discussed

Thanks Stuart,

I shall touch base with you tomorrow to discuss any issues from the update Peter sent through on the broader list of actions. I shall also discuss the timing etc. of the resource discussions proposed below.

Regards,

Paul Jordon  
 Acting Executive General Manager Customer Service  
 Ergon Energy

---

**From:** Stuart Traill [<mailto:stuart@etu.org.au>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 January 2016 2:32 PM  
**To:** JORDON Paul (WB)  
**Cc:** Peter Simpson (ETU)  
**Subject:** RE: Our Demands as Discussed

Jordo,

I can live with that.

Cheers,

Stuey.

**From:** JORDON Paul (WB) [<mailto:paul.jordon@ergon.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 January 2016 2:00 PM  
**To:** Stuart Traill  
**Subject:** RE: Our Demands as Discussed

Stuart,

As discussed, I propose the following measures to address the issues you have raised and so as we can consult around resourcing and the forward works program.

A meeting is held in Brisbane with yourself, relevant senior ETU delegates and Ergon Energy representatives to consult on, review and take feedback on the AER outcomes, the forward works program and proposed strategies regarding internal and external resource levels at Hub level and at a rolled up view. This would also subsequently be tabled at SBU.

With regard to the proposal to review asset inspection cycle times, it is acknowledged that appropriate Union input and consultation is necessary prior to considering such an initiative. As such, this issue would not be tabled for consultation earlier than the 1st of March at which point the appropriate consultative processes would be employed.

I can confirm that items 2, 3 and 4 in your email are not current proposals for implementation and that further communication and consultation with Unions is required regarding the resourcing strategy. Issues such as the AER impacts on the works program, internal resource levels and the nature and quantity of external resources to be utilised to deliver the works program would form part of those consultative processes.

Once we have ETU agreement to the above issues, I shall provide a communication to Ergon Energy employees outlining these issues and approach to be taken.

I appreciate the time you have taken to address these issues and am happy to further discuss the proposals above if necessary.

Regards,

Paul Jordon  
 Acting Executive General Manager Customer Service  
 Ergon Energy

---

**From:** Stuart Traill [<mailto:stuart@etu.org.au>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 January 2016 11:26 AM  
**To:** JORDON Paul (WB)  
**Cc:** COLEMAN Troy (NQ); DOWD Doniel (NQ); Peter Simpson (ETU); Michael Haire; Wal; daniel; BLOOM Greg (NO); CONWAY Jason (CA); McGAW Chris (SW); HILL Robert (FN); RIX Ian (MK); SOLOGINKIN Scott (WB)  
**Subject:** Our Demands as Discussed

Jordo,



Our Position is that our Senior Delegates remain committed and available to meet with Hub Managers to discuss local works plans and associated resourcing on the basis that the Managers are genuine in their discussions. We are sick of having meetings only to be ignored by Managers hiding behind the AER argument with no substantiating facts.

At a broader Ergon level I am reluctant to talk to Ergon based on Ergon's refusal to comply with it's consultation obligations in the UCA unless,

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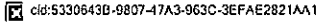
The above will demonstrate that Ergon is serious about its obligations to provide frontline resources and committed to its obligations to genuinely consult with our Union.

Please advise,

**Stuart Traill**  
 Supply Industry Coordinator  
 Electrical Trades Union  
 Queensland  
 M. Not Relevant  
 F. (07) 40513502  
[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)  
[www.etu.org.au](http://www.etu.org.au)



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Subject: Re: IMG\_3146.3gp  
From: Stuart Traill (stuart@etu.org.au)  
To: mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
Date: Thursday, 28 January 2016 20:34

Thanks mate

Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Jan 2016, at 8:14 pm, Mark Bailey <mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

No sound on the clip Stew but got the gist of it.

Dave - Can you pursue it in the morning please? Thx mate... M

On Thursday, 28 January 2016, 19:48, Stuart Traill <stuart@etu.org.au> wrote:

Their maintenance and job cuts are causing this, this pole was outside their current 4 yr inspection cycle for some reason and they want to extend it out to 6 years.

Will keep you updated, these group of residents have had enough based on their conversations with Rabbit today and are considering a class action for insurance.

Apparently an Ergon Manager has lied to them about the how frequent Ergon does the inspections to try and shut them up.

I have told Ergon to get me some answers by lunch tomorrow.

Cheers,  
Stuey.

**Subject:** Re: Info  
**From:** Mark Bailey (mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk)  
**To:** simmo@etu.org.au;  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 February 2016, 12:16

No worries comrade. All good! M

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Feb 2016, at 11:28 AM, Peter Simpson (ETU) <[simmo@etu.org.au](mailto:simmo@etu.org.au)> wrote:

Mate,

I want to apologise for this one, it's only just been brought to my attention that this meeting had absolutely nothing to do with the MUA and the below request was done without Sch 4  
CTPI knowledge.

That situation has now been rectified but sorry, I got stooged on this one

Simmo

**From:** Peter Simpson (ETU)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2016 9:21 PM  
**To:** Mark Bailey <[mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Info

Ta mate

Sent from my iPhone

On 2 Feb 2016, at 9:15 PM, Mark Bailey <[mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk)> wrote:

Will check... M

Sent from my iPhone

On 2 Feb 2016, at 8:33 AM, Peter Simpson (ETU) <[simmo@etu.org.au](mailto:simmo@etu.org.au)> wrote:

Haven't heard back from Denise mate about this one, dunno if her email is down again?

Simmo

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**From:** Peter Simpson (ETU)  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 January 2016 9:19 AM  
**To:** [denise.spink](mailto:denise.spink@ctpi.com.au) Sch 4 CTPI  
**Subject:** Fwd: Info

Mate, can we get a meeting for these blokes mate?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Stuart Trill <[stuart@etu.org.au](mailto:stuart@etu.org.au)>  
**Date:** 22 January 2016 at 7:52:23 AM AEST  
**To:** "Peter Simpson (ETU)" <[simmo@etu.org.au](mailto:simmo@etu.org.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Info

Comrade,

The MUA have sent me this seeking a meeting between Mark and a business owner they have a strong relationship with regarding the attached letter.

Can you forward it on get someone from the Ministers office to contact Stephen (Brisbane Port Branch President) on the number below to discuss the details and arrange a catchup?

Cheers,

Stuey.

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**From:** Stephen Cumberlidge [mailto:Sch 4 CTPI]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 January 2016 11:34 AM  
**To:** Stuart Traill  
**Subject:** Info

If you could help it would be appetited

Thanks Stephen Cumberlidge MUA Not Relevant

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**From:** Part Refuse Sch.4 Part 4 s.7(1)(c)  
Business/commercial/professional/financial affairs  
**To:** steve.cumbc Sch 4 CTPI  
**Subject:**  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Jan 2016 17:52:23 +1000

Hi Steve please fine attach email  
cheers

<Stephen Cumberlidge Letter 11 January 2016.docx>

Released under RTI - DTMR

11 January 2016  
Mr Stephen Cumberlidge  
Vice President of Port of Brisbane Labor Party

Dear Steve,

Part Refuse Sch.4 Part 4 s.7(1)(c) Business/commercial/professional/financial affairs

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Subject: FW: Asbestos in Switchrooms  
From: Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
To: mangocube8@yahoo.co.uk; Sch 4 CTPI  
Date: Friday, 19 February 2016, 11:27

Comrades,

Fyi, I've spoken to Grace about this issue, the Division of WH&S, in particular Sch 4 CTPI knows exactly where this material is but for some reason the Dept isn't cooperating. We are about to implement a State wide ban on working in Switch rooms, which will impact on the GOC's, so this is a heads up eh.

Cheers

Simmo

From: Peter Simpson (ETU)  
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2016 11:24 AM  
To: 'Steve Butler' <steveb@etunsw.asn.au>; 'Trevor Gauld' <trevor@ceputas.com.au>; 'Allen Hicks' <Allen@etuaustralia.org.au>; 'Troy Gray' <troy@etu.asn.au>; 'John Adley' <JohnA@cepusa.com.au>; 'LES McLAUGHLAN' <les@etuwa.com.au>  
Subject: FW: Asbestos in Switchrooms  
Importance: High

Comrades,

See below, I've just got off the phone with our Minister about implementing a ban on ALL switch rooms until the Division of WH&S can identify which areas are safe and which aren't, we'll do the same in the NT obviously.

Be good if we could do this Nationally?

Simmo

From: Peter Simpson (ETU)  
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2016 11:08 AM  
To: 'grace.grace@ministerial.qld.gov.au' <grace.grace@ministerial.qld.gov.au>  
Cc: 'Lucia.Neale@ministerial.qld.gov.au' <Lucia.Neale@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Peter Ong <peter@etu.org.au>; 'michael.ravbar@qld.cfmeu.asn.au' <michael.ravbar@qld.cfmeu.asn.au>; 'andrew.ramsey@qld.cfmeu.asn.au' <andrew.ramsey@qld.cfmeu.asn.au>; Allen Hicks <Allen@etuaustralia.org.au>  
Subject: Asbestos in Switchrooms  
Importance: High

Grace,

Further to our phone call, we are reliably informed that the Dept of WH&S knows of the locations of these switch rooms but will not disclose them to the ETU & CFMEU.

As a result of that refusal, I'm about to instruct all of our Officials to place an immediate ban on work in all switch rooms across the State until such time as they are deemed safe.

Some info we've received on this today (below) as you can see we are talking about 26 across Queensland.

Simmo



I am emailing to advise you of electrical switch rooms that possibly contain asbestos materials which have been supplied to a workplace that may be under the management and control of ....

The issue came to the attention of the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) Asbestos Importation Working Group in late November 2015 and late yesterday the list of Queensland sites was sent to me (see attached). The HWSA group has been working to develop a common national response.

The South Australian manufacturer, Robin Johnson Engineering Pty Ltd, advises there were 64 switch room buildings supplied as per Table 1.

Table 1

State	Projects	Buildings
QLD	13	26
NSW	13	17
SA	7	11
VIC	4	9
NT	1	1

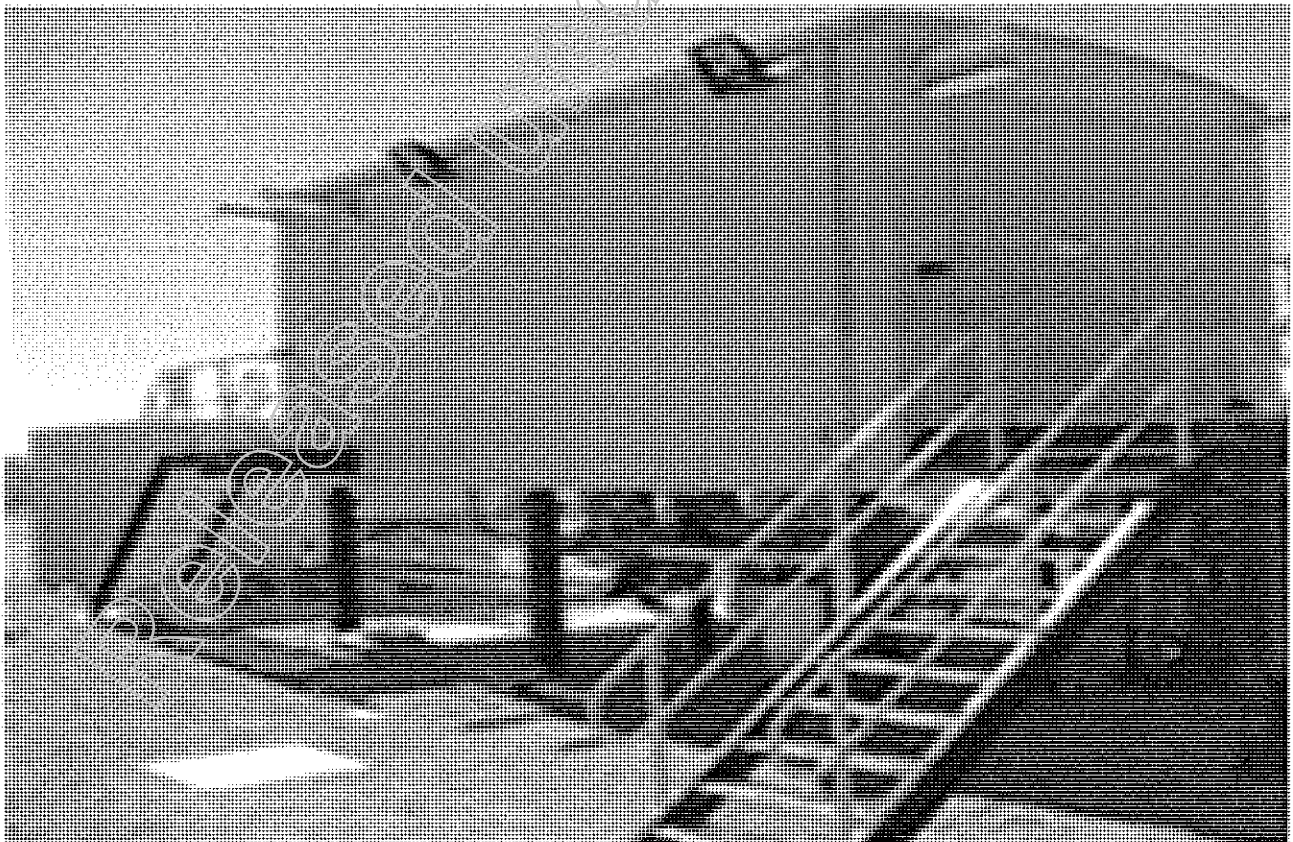
On the 7 December 2015, the manufacturer sent a total of 32 letters to the Environmental/Safety Department of each business. I have pasted the content of that letter below, deleting information that may identify the business.

Identification of asbestos in floor sheeting


Dear Sir/Madam,

We are contacting you regarding the electrical control/switchroom identified as KJ76 Fans Substation Switchroom and Control Room and LV Switchroom supplied ....(dates vary from customer to customer)

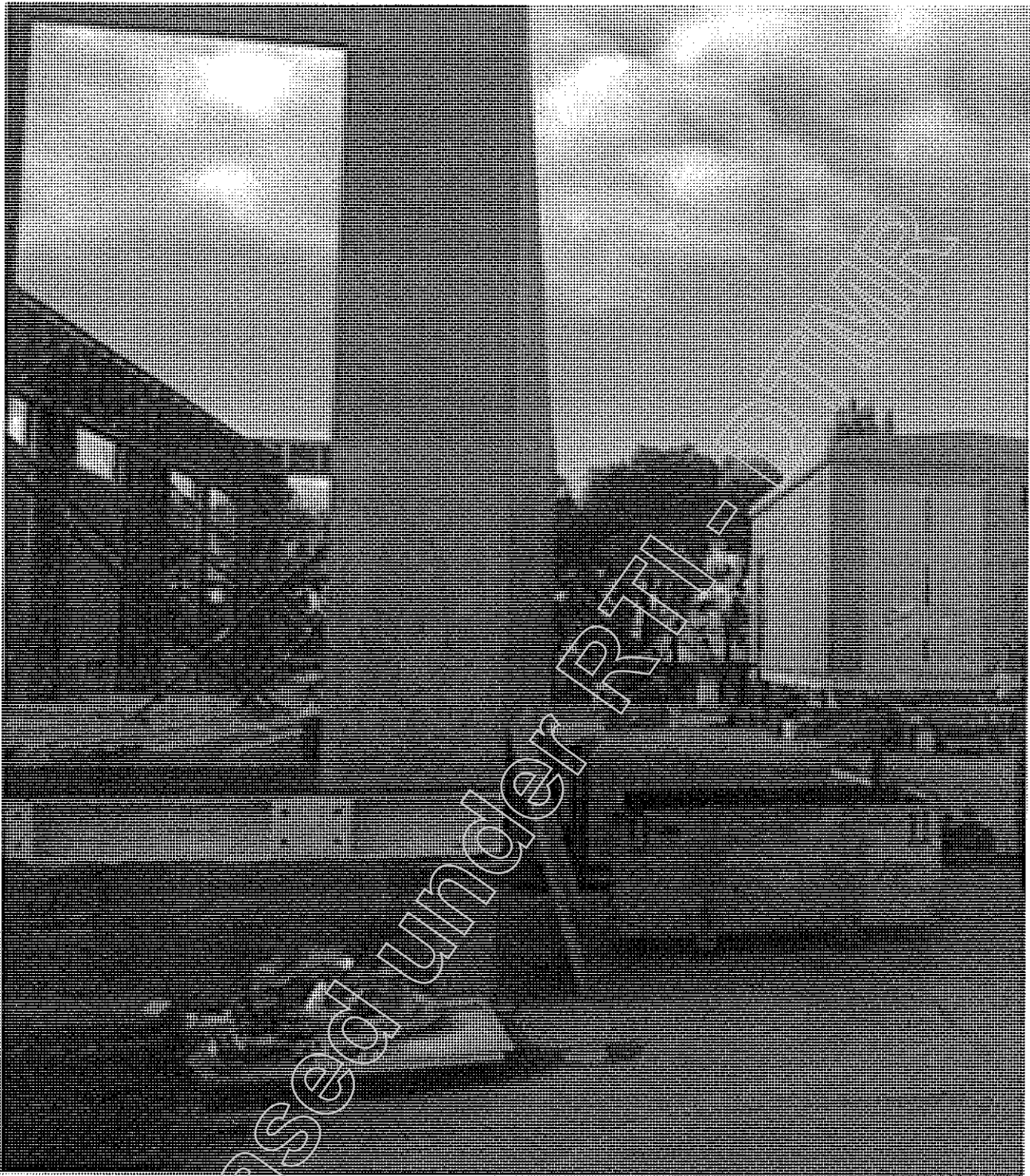
Pictures of the switch rooms are below. I am advised the floor area of these switch rooms range from smallest being 14m x 4.5m to largest being 30m x 7.5m and a range of sizes in-between.



The asbestos material is contained in the floor panelling.

 cid:image001.png@01D1327B.F7902400

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Regardless of the correspondence sent by the manufacturer to each customer, I am making contact with the relevant person at the non-mine workplaces listed in the attached, today, to ensure they are aware of this issue and to provide you with the following advice/direction:

- Identify the presence of these switchrooms at all workplaces under their control
- Immediately instruct staff and contractors to not disturb the floor sheeting in the switch room/s, for example by cutting, grinding, drilling, etc, until such time the below is implemented
- Either assume the presence of asbestos, or have analysis done of the floor sheets of the switch rooms for presence of asbestos. You may have to test each individual sheet of the floor as different batches of the floor sheeting may have been used, some containing asbestos and others not.
- If presence of asbestos confirmed then record the presence in an asbestos register, implement an asbestos management plan, label the floor sheeting to warn of the presence of asbestos, inform staff and contractors of the presence of asbestos in the floor sheeting, issue appropriate work instructions, ensure appropriate supervision of elements of the asbestos management plan
- If any work that may disturb the floor sheeting is to be performed, appropriate safe work methods must be put in place immediately. Information on such work methods can be found on the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) website at visit [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au)
- Notify the Manager of the WHSQ Asbestos and Occupational Hygiene and Health Unit of any past or current work performed on the floor sheeting, post-delivery of the switchrooms.

The above will control any immediate risk of exposure to airborne asbestos fibres. WHSQ will advise in due course as to ongoing management of the floor sheeting, including whether the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 places a duty on the person conducting the business or undertaking (PCBU) to remove the floor sheeting.

Regards,

Peter Simpson

State Secretary

Not Relevant

[simm0@etu.org.au](mailto:simm0@etu.org.au)

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**Attachments**

- image001.png (836.87 KB)
- image002.png (1.99 MB)
- image003.png (1.68 MB)

Released under RTI - DTMR

**Subject:** Fwd: Cs Energy Corporate agreement  
**From:** Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
**To:** mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 April 2016, 9:57

I'm over this mate, heard nothing from Sorely, I've asked Jason Young to ring him as I'm tied up at present

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Jason Young (ETU)" <jason@etu.org.au>  
**Date:** 14 April 2016 at 9:48:45 AM AEST  
**To:** "Peter Simpson (ETU)" <simmo@etu.org.au>  
**Subject:** Cs Energy Corporate agreement

Mate,

Spoke to Baileys office (Denise) yesterday about us basing a party and its still an issue. Denise said that as long as we have members then the issue is resolved. I get to the negotiations this morning and the Sch 4 CTPI days it's still an issue and until the board instruct him otherwise it's a drama. He has however proposed that we all go to FWC on a dispute and have the commission resolve this. Not a bad option but fuck me it would be a waste of time.

The quickest way will be for Sorley to instruct this Sch 4 CTPI to drop the issues but I seriously doubt that will happen. Without your persuasion.

What do you want to do?

Sent from my iPhone

**Subject:** Re: Pyne takes on CSG for north Qld  
**From:** Peter Simpson (ETU) (simmo@etu.org.au)  
**To:** mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk;  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 June 2016, 21:52

That's him 🐼🐼🐼

Sent from my iPhone

> On 28 Jun 2016, at 9:49 PM, Mark Bailey <mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:  
>  
> Nothing if not predictable...  
>  
> 9news.com.au <http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/06/28/11/57/pyne-takes-on-csg-for-north-qld>  
>  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone

Released under RTI - DPMR

Subject: Re: St George Pole Issue

From: simmo@etu.org.au

To: mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk

Date: Thursday, 4 February 2016, 6:25:44 pm AEST

Cheers mate, good news

Sent from my iPhone

On 4 Feb 2016, at 7:24 PM, Mark Bailey <mangocube6@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Hey Simmo,

Denise has done some digging and here's some info;

Just a short note on that St George crew issue. It was a customer pole, not an Ergon pole. They did check it before they climbed it but it has failed as he was about to get down. I understand Sch 4 CTPI [redacted] at Toowoomba hospital.

.....

On Tuesday 2 February 2016 afternoon a St George crew attended a fault call from storm damage at a property in Dirranbandi.

The customers open wire main supply to a shed were twisted and below statutory height. The crew isolated the fault and restored supply to the house and due to the dangerous condition of low hanging wires decided to remove the hazard by untwisting wires and terminating to make safe from traffic on the property.

A crew member climbed the customers pole (Please note this was a customer pole not an Ergon Energy asset). The pole was rope tested and sounded before climbing.

The pole failed and an employee attached to the pole by the safety harness fell to the ground. The employee received Sch 4 CTPI [redacted]. The employee was conscious throughout.

The injured employee was transported to Dirranbandi hospital for treatment and then to the Toowoomba base hospital where Sch 4 CTPI [redacted]. The employee and family are being offered support by Ergon.

The incident will be investigated in line with our regular safety processes.