

# LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD POLICY

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Bushfire Mitigation Hardship Policy</b>		
<b>DATE ADOPTED</b>	August 2016	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	4i August 2016
<b>CURRENT VERSION</b>	August 2016	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	4i August 2016
<b>REVIEW</b>	5 years	<b>FILE REFERENCE</b>	PO0020
<b>ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION</b>	<i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> (NSW) – This Act requires that network operators have and implement a hardship policy providing flexible payments options to assist leaseholders if the network operator seeks to recover the cost of works.		
<b>ASSOCIATED POLICIES</b>	N/A		

## 1 Background

As a network operator, as defined under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*, the Lord Howe Island Board (the Board) is required to have and implement a hardship policy providing flexible payment options to assist leaseholders if the Board seeks to recover the cost of bushfire mitigation works.

The bushfire risk from electricity distribution assets on Lord Howe Island is low, due to the network mostly being underground and the sub-tropical climate. Therefore, it is unlikely that the Board will use its power under the Act to recover the costs of bushfire mitigation works on leaseholder's lands. However, to be compliant with the legislation, the Board is required to have a simple policy to reflect the Island circumstances.

## 2 Policy

The Lord Howe Island Board will not seek to recover the costs associated with bushfire mitigation work undertaken by the Lord Howe Island Board from private leaseholders.

## 3 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the policy is to enable the Board to comply with Section 53I within Division 2A (Hardship Policy requirements) under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

## 4 Implementation

The Lord Howe Island Board will not seek to recover the costs associated with bushfire mitigation work undertaken by the Lord Howe Island Board from private leaseholders.

Should this requirement change, the Lord Howe Island Board will submit a comprehensive policy including flexible payment options to IPART for approval.

The Bushfire Mitigation Hardship Policy is to be made available to external stakeholders via the Lord Howe Island Board website.