

10 March 2023

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By e-mail only: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Extension to the deadline for Asset Management Plan disclosures under the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012

1. We write in response to Vector Limited's (**Vector**) letter (the **letter**) dated 24 February 2023,¹ which requested that the Commerce Commission (the **Commission**) provide an extension to the deadline for the disclosure of Vector's Asset Management Plan (**AMP**) in 2023, required under the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 (the **ID determination**).²
2. Vector requested a six-week extension to the AMP disclosure deadline due to the impacts of recent weather events in Auckland, including Cyclone Gabrielle.³
3. This request follows a letter we received on 15 February 2023⁴ in which the Electricity Networks Association (the **ENA**) requested a two-week (10 working day) extension to the AMP disclosure deadline for all Electricity Distribution Businesses (**EDBs**). The Commission approved the ENA's request on 24 February 2023.⁵ As such, Vector has already been granted a two-week extension in relation to its AMP disclosure obligations for 2023.⁶

¹ *Request for extension – Asset Management Plan (AMP)*, Vector Limited, dated 24 February 2023.

² EDB ID Determination 2012, amended November 2022. Found [here](#) on our website.

³ Vector is the EDB that serves the Auckland area.

⁴ *Request for an extension for upcoming regulatory disclosure deadlines*, the ENA, dated 15 February 2023.

⁵ *Electricity Distribution ID Exemptions – All EDBs – Extension to deadline for year-beginning disclosures*, dated 24 February 2023.

⁶ These disclosures must now be publicly disclosed by the revised deadline of 18 April 2023.

Background

4. The ID determination requires that EDBs, before the start of each disclosure year,⁷ publicly disclose the following AMP-related disclosures:
 - 4.1 an AMP, in accordance with clauses 2.6.1 and 2.6.1A; or an AMP update, in accordance with clauses 2.6.3 and 2.6.4;
 - 4.2 information on forecasts and asset condition, in accordance with clause 2.6.6; and
 - 4.3 mandatory explanatory notes on forecast information, in accordance with clause 2.7.2.

Exemption request

5. Vector has requested a six-week extension to the existing deadline of 31 March 2023 for the disclosure of its AMP.⁸ Vector has stated that it is not able to reasonably comply with the current deadline due to the high workloads for engineers and executive staff caused by two different unforeseen and severe weather events:⁹
 - 5.1 flooding across Auckland in late January which resulted in widespread power outages, particularly in west Auckland; and
 - 5.2 Cyclone Gabrielle, which left 42,000 homes and businesses without power across Vector's network at its peak, mostly caused by wind and fallen vegetation.
6. As a result of these weather events, Vector states it has prioritised staff toward:
 - 6.1 supporting emergency services to ensure the safety of communities;
 - 6.2 reconnecting customers to the electricity distribution system;¹⁰ and
 - 6.3 addressing hazards posed to the public, such as fallen power lines and damaged electrical equipment.
7. Vector recognises that delaying publication of its AMP may have some impact on interested persons' timely access to the information.¹¹ However, it considers it appropriate to urgently address and dedicate appropriate resources to repair damage to Vector's network and reconnect customers.

⁷ The disclosure year for EDBs is 1 April – 31 March.

⁸ An AMP must be disclosed before 1 April i.e. by 31 March.

⁹ Paragraphs 3 – 5 of the letter.

¹⁰ At paragraph 6 of the letter, Vector states that as of 24 February, approximately 2,000 homes and businesses are still without power.

¹¹ Paragraph 8 of the letter.

Exemption granted

8. We consider a further extension for Vector, beyond the previously granted two-week extension applying to all EDBs, is reasonable given that:
 - 8.1 Auckland was one of the areas in New Zealand that was severely affected by both Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 and flooding that occurred at the end of January 2023;
 - 8.2 due to the impact and aftermath of the weather events, Vector's staff have been focused on the safety of people and restoring power to disconnected customers. Vector noted that some of these staff are normally involved in the processes around preparing AMP disclosures;¹²
 - 8.3 the events that led to Vector reprioritising its staff are outside of its control; and
 - 8.4 the extension only relates to the timing of the AMP and does not alter the volume or category of information required to be publicly disclosed. Therefore, granting the extension will not change the amount of information in the public domain.
9. We have considered the impact of the extension on the purpose of information disclosure under section 53A of the Commerce Act 1986 and have concluded that the purpose will still be met if this exemption is granted.¹³
10. By this notice, using the exemption powers in clause 2.11.1(1) of the ID determination, the Commission grants Vector an extension to **12 May 2023** for publicly disclosing the following information:¹⁴
 - 10.1 an AMP, in accordance with clauses 2.6.1 and 2.6.1A;¹⁵
 - 10.2 information on forecasts and asset condition, in accordance with clause 2.6.6; and
 - 10.3 mandatory explanatory notes on forecast information, in accordance with clause 2.7.2.

¹² *AMP Date Extension*, e-mail from ██████████ dated 17 February 2023.

¹³ Noting that paragraph 8 of the letter acknowledges that this exemption will have an impact on interested persons' access to information, we find that this impact is negligible and find the exemption to be reasonable.

¹⁴ This extension follows the two-week extension outlined in paragraph 3. As requested by Vector, it is essentially a six-week extension to the original deadline of 31 March 2023.

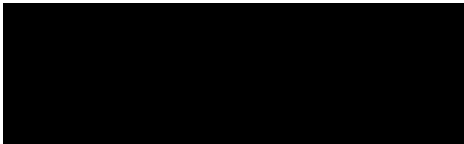
¹⁵ Clause 2.6.3(2) of the ID determination requires an AMP to be completed, instead of an AMP update, for the AMP disclosure due before the 2024 disclosure year (i.e. before 1 April 2023).

11. The requirement for director certification of disclosed information, under clause 2.9.1 of the ID determination, continues to apply regardless of the deadline extensions above.

Further information

12. This exemption may be revoked or further amended by the Commission at any time in accordance with clause 2.11.1(2) of the ID determination.
13. A copy of this exemption response letter will be published on the Commission's website.
14. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Rhys Williams at infrastructure.regulation@comcom.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Andy Burgess
General Manager, Infrastructure Regulation