

PROJECT DATA

Bird Mortality with Power Assets Project

CLIENT	Aurora Energy / Transend Networks / Hydro Tasmania
PROJECT LOCATION	Tasmania, Australia
DATE OF PROJECT	1998
SERVICES PROVIDED	Investigation of bird management techniques and prevention of electrocution focussing on endangered species of raptors



Hydro Tasmania Consulting developed the first systematic program in the Australian Electricity Industry to manage bird interactions with power assets. The project focused on raptors (endangered species), as electrocution presents a significant threat to these species. It also addressed other issues such as bird collisions with powerlines, bird-caused power outages, and bird flashover bushfires.

Using a variety of information and technology, a Tasmanian GIS birdstrike map was developed to highlight known incident and bird use areas. Field trials of overseas-derived mitigation measures monitored effectiveness with local species and conditions.

The research resulted in an Avian Action Plan being produced, which included work instructions and systematic processes to: improve reporting of and response to incidents; identify problems; prioritise mitigation measures; develop management programs for the design of new routes and the use of new types of assets.

Forward planning rather than retrofitting is the better way to deal with bird interactions with power supply assets. To enable this, a multi-layered environmental mapping database, using GIS technology, has been designed. The database links to management guidelines, allowing for desktop accessibility and broad applications. This allows line designers and asset managers to review areas for threatened species, electrocution and collision risks and factor these into new designs.

