

UTILITIES TECHNICAL REGULATION

COMBINED ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013-14 AND 2014-15

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1. INTRODUCTION

11 LICENSED UTILITY **PROVIDERS**

Within the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) utilities are licensed by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) under Part 3 of the Utilities Act 2000. Licensed utilities operating in the ACT during 2013–14 and 2014–15 included:

- ActewAGL Distribution Electricity and TransGrid
- Gas

ActewAGL Distribution and East Australian **Pipeline Limited**

Water & Sewerage Icon Water Limited

(previously ACTEW Water)

TECHNICAL REGULATION 1.2

Prior to 1 March 2015 Part 5 of the *Utilities* Act 2000 made provision for the technical regulation of utilities. From 1 March 2015 provision for technical regulation of regulated utility services transferred to the Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014 (the UTR Act). The objects of the UTR Act are to:

- ensure the safe, reliable and efficient delivery of regulated utility services
- promote the long-term serviceability of regulated utility networks and services
- promote design integrity and functionality of regulated utility networks
- ensure the safe and reliable operation and maintenance of regulated utility networks and regulated utility services to protect the following:
 - » the public
 - people working on regulated utility » networks and regulated utility services
 - property near regulated utility networks » and regulated utility services and
 - the environment. »

Regulated utility services include services delivered by licensed utilities; as well as small and medium scale electrical generation, a regulated utility service prescribed by the Minister, registrable dams and some district energy services.

Technical regulation provides a regulatory mechanism that fosters the development of sustainable regulated utility services while ensuring community protection and the reliability, serviceability and functionality of these services.

The UTR Act and Technical Codes notified under the Act outline requirements with which utilities and others must comply in delivering regulated utility services in the ACT. Sections 2–5 of this report are the Utility Technical Regulator's (UTR) assessment of aspects of utility performance during the 2013-14 and 2014–15 financial years. Much of the information relied upon in preparing this report is taken from the annual Compliance and Performance Reports provided by utilities.

The Director-General of the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) is the Technical Regulator under the UTR Act. The Technical Regulator has carriage of the Act on behalf of the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change.

The team supporting the Technical Regulator is the Utilities Technical Regulation team (UTR) within Access Canberra, the regulatory arm of the Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD).

1.3 LICENSED UTILITY COMPLIANCE

The Technical Regulator may issue a written direction to require compliance by a regulated utility when satisfied that the utility has contravened, or is likely to contravene, a technical code.

Whilst there were areas of non-compliance with various requirements of Technical Codes by licensed utilities during 2013–14 and 2014–15, none were serious enough to warrant the issue of a direction by the Technical Regulator under Section 18 of the UTR Act. However, there are a number of important issues identified in this report that will be closely monitored by the Technical regulator. These include:

- Electricity Confidence in the safety performance of photovoltaic installations especially during planned and unplanned electricity outages (Section 2.3)
- Electricity Quality of electricity supply (Section 2.5)
- Gas Safety of certain gas metering equipment in medium-density high-rise apartments (Section 3.4)
- Water Adequacy of the demonstration of the safety of particular Icon Water Dams (Section 4.3).

Timber pole inspected and scheduled for replacement by ActewAGL



1.4 COMPLIANCE OF UNLICENSED REGULATED UTILITY SERVICES

Owners and lessees of registrable dams

Dam safety risk arises from the potential consequences of an uncontrolled discharge of water as a result of a dam failure. While the likelihood of such an event is very low, the history of catastrophic dam failure in other countries highlights the importance of good dam safety management. Dam safety regulation exists to ensure that the safety of dams is managed so that risk to life, the environment and property is tolerable.

Changes to the ACT Dam Safety Code are currently under consideration which will extend the application of this Code beyond the five Icon Water Dams scheduled under the 2014 Dam Safety Code to include all registrable dams within the Territory that are determined to present a risk of significant adverse effects to the community in the event of failure of the dam. This will extend regulation from dams operated by licensed water utilities to include all listed dams managed by entities in accordance with Operating Certificates for licensed unregulated utility services. This will bring effect to the legislative changes of the UTR Act.

Other unlicensed regulated utility providers

Currently there are no district energy services or prescribed utility services operating in the ACT which would meet the conditions for issue of an Operating Certificate under Part 6 of the UTR Act.

2. ELECTRICITY UTILITY PERFORMANCE

ActewAGL's performance in delivering electricity utility services was largely satisfactory during 2013–14 and 2014–15. However aspects of its performance did not fully comply with Technical Code requirements and some raised safety concerns. The more significant of these are noted below and future performance in these areas will be monitored by UTR.

2.1 NOTIFIABLE INCIDENTS

There were no reported serious electrical incidents during 2013–14. However, from 1 March 2015 to 30 June 2015 following enactment of the UTR Act, UTR received reports of 18 notifiable electrical incidents. All the notifiable incidents were dangerous incidents as defined in Section 28 of the UTR Act.

UTR and ActewAGL are working together to improve and clarify reporting requirements to ensure the comprehensive reporting of incidents.

2.2 POLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

ActewAGL has a rolling condition testing program for power poles. The purpose of the program is to confirm that poles in its network remain safe (structurally adequate). 'Condemned' poles are deteriorated poles that represent an increased public safety risk and risk to the supply network. ActewAGL procedures require that 'condemned' poles are replaced or remediated within 12 months. This procedure is based on the assessment by ActewAGL that if left for a longer period the risk to the community from a falling pole becomes unacceptable. Whilst ActewAGL performance in replacing poles was poor during 2013–14, advice provided by ActewAGL and summarised in Table 1 indicates that during 2014-15 it significantly improved its timeliness attending to 'condemned' poles thereby reducing the number not remediated or replaced within 12 months from 934 to 51. This presents an encouraging trend in the management of poles in the ActewAGL network.



Table 1: Condemned power poles in ActewAGL Network

	2013-14	2014-15
Nos. poles tested	16,243	11,103
Nos. poles condemned (as a % of poles tested)	1,547 (9.5%)	837 (7.5%)
Nos. condemned poles replaced or remediated within 12 months	1,225	1,520
Nos. condemned poles not replaced or remediated within 12 months	934	51

2.3 ELECTRICITY GRID PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

Privately owned solar panels have been installed widely throughout Canberra in recent years. Photovoltaic (PV) Inverters are an essential component of all these installations and automatically operate to disconnect PVgenerated electricity supply from the ActewAGL electricity network if supply from the grid is disrupted for any reason.

To ensure the safety features of inverters continue to operate satisfactorily in the event of a power failure in the ActewAGL grid, the Electricity Service and Installation Rules require inverters to be tested every five years to ensure they are functioning correctly and will not cause a safety hazard for maintenance staff.

There are now 16,276 PV installations in the network as shown in Table 2. 2,418 of these are now more than 5 years old. In 2013–14 ActewAGL received confirmation that 451 of 826 eligible installations had been tested.

Table 2: Photovoltaic inverters (PV) connected to the electricity network

Year	Number of PV systems connected each year
2014-15	1,468
2013-14	2,107
2012-13	1,799
2011-12	5,349
2010-11	3,135
2009-10	1,592
2008-09	474
2007–08	257
Prior to 2007–08	95
Total installed	16,276

However, no further testing was requested by ActewAGL in 2014–15. This leaves 1,967 PV installations where the condition is unknown. If faulty, they are a potential safety hazard for maintenance staff. UTR and ActewAGL are discussing plans to respond to individual PV installation owners who have not had their inverters tested or where test results identify the installation to be faulty in some way.

UTR is carefully monitoring progress regarding this issue as there is already the possibility that a faulty PV installation could create a hazardous situation for maintenance staff. A further 3,135 PV installations were completed in 2010–11 and so are due for testing in 2015–16. A successful management strategy will mitigate the hazard to maintenance staff presented by faulty PV inverters.

2.4 SUPPLY STANDARDS

Standards Australia issued AS60038 with 400/230 volts as the nominal voltage in the year 2000. The purpose of this standard was to provide a single national standard for electricity supply voltages across Australia that was consistent with emerging international standards. Later in 2000, the ACT introduced the Electricity Distribution (Supply Standards) Code, which allowed voltage compliance with AS60038 or the earlier standard with a nominal voltage of 415/240 volts to provide a transition period for utilities.

The Electricity Distribution (Supply Standards) Code was updated in 2013 and compliance with AS60038 was made mandatory with a nominal 400/230 volt supply. ActewAGL was noncompliant during 2013–14 but subsequently in 2014–15 reviewed supply standards and now complies with current requirements.

2.5 QUALITY OF SUPPLY

Annual survey

The Electricity Distribution (Supply Standards) Code requires ActewAGL to report annually on quality of supply within its network. To meet this requirement ActewAGL conducts an annual survey of the quality of supply at selected sites where voltage levels are recorded.

UTR and ActewAGL are discussing the parameters of the sampling program. It is recommended that sampling involves an adequate sample size for the whole of the Canberra electricity network, considers all variables that contribute to the quality of supply and that the sample sites selected are representative of the quality of supply that customers will receive.

Table 3 summarises survey results for the period covered by this report and shows that overvoltage at sampled sites increased from 25% to 57% in the most recent reporting period. Monitoring of this trend is required to ensure that there is no escalating problems for ActewAGL Distribution.

ActewAGL is currently reviewing its quality of supply processes and practices to improve performance in this area.

Table 3: Quality of Supply

	2013-14	2014-15
Nos. sites where voltage levels were recorded	40	44
Nos. sites requiring remedial action due to overvoltage	10 (25%)	25 (57%)

Defective Neutral

As reported by ActewAGL through the Notifiable Incidents reporting process, there appears to be a growing incidence of broken or faulty (high resistance) neutral problems in the ActewAGL network. This is of concern as it results in an increased risk of personal injury (electric shock) or equipment damage. Further consideration of this issue will take place during regular liaison meetings between ActewAGL Distribution and UTR in 2015–16.

2.6 RELIABILITY INDICATORS

The Electricity Distribution (Supply Standards) Code sets supply reliability targets for Outage time (CAIDI), Outage frequency (SAIFI) and Outage duration (SAIDI).

Targets for SAIFI and SAIDI were met but as shown in Table 4 the CAIDI results in both 2013–14 and 2014–15 exceeded the target of 74.6 minutes. This is considered a minor non-conformance as CAIDI is considered a secondary indicator and improvement in SAIFI to SAIDI can cause a decline in CAIDI.



Here vegetation is too close to a pole and transformer creating a fire hazard and a risk to electricity supply.

The ACT Government is working with ActewAGL to develop improvements to vegetation management practices near power lines.

There was an increase in SAIDI from 67.8 minutes in 2013–14 to 82.5 minutes in 2014–15. If this trend does not change by 2015-16 there is a risk that SAIDI will exceed target. Similarly, SAIFI has increased which indicates that customers are experiencing longer outages more often.

Table 4: Electricity Supply Reliability

Parameter	Target	2013-14	2014-15
Outage Time (CAIDI) minutes	74.6	98.9	100.3
Outage Frequency (SAIFI) Number	1.2	0.69	0.82
Outage Duration (SAIDI) minutes	91	67.8	82.5

3. GAS UTILITY PERFORMANCE

ActewAGL's performance in delivering gas utility services was largely satisfactory during the 2013–14 and 2014–15 reporting periods. Over the two year period of this report there has been a significant improvement by the utility in its gas meter set installation practices. However UTR holds safety concerns for some meter sets installed before 2013 as described in Section 3.4 below.

3.1 SERIOUS GAS ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

ActewAGL reported no serious gas accidents or incidents during 2013–14 and 2014–15. UTR and ActewAGL acknowledge that the nature of incidents requiring reporting has been open to interpretation and have worked together to clarify and streamline incident, accident and emergency reporting requirements.

3.2 GAS SAFETY AND OPERATING PLAN

The Gas Safety and Operating Plan Code 2000 requires ActewAGL to prepare and periodically update a Safety and Operating Plan (SaOP). The SaOP describes how ActewAGL plans to safely operate and manage the gas network. The Code requires ActewAGL to implement and comply with provisions of the endorsed plan. Accordingly the SaOP is a significant document providing assurance to the ACT Government and community that ActewAGL will operate its gas network in a safe manner.

ActewAGL submitted a revised SaOP to UTR in April 2015 as permitted under Section 6 of the Code. The SaOP was accepted by UTR recognising that it is subject to a regular cycle of update by ActewAGL and review by UTR.

3.3 EMERGENCY PLANNING

In April 2014 and again in April 2015 ActewAGL submitted its annual update of the draft Gas Networks Emergency Management Plan (Plan) as required by the Emergency Planning Code 2011. The Plan submitted integrates with ActewAGL's Emergency Management System (EMS). Whilst the April 2015 Plan did not technically conform to the Code, the EMS was accepted as providing the coverage intended by the Code.

UTR and ActewAGL acknowledge the need to review both the Code and Emergency Management Plan in order to reflect the current industry move towards 'total event management systems' which also incorporate emergency management.

3.4 SAFE GAS METERING

As reported in 2012–13 ActewAGL historically over a period of 3–4 years failed to provide documented procedures and processes to demonstrate safe installation of new gas metering equipment for domestic customers located in medium density high rise apartments. UTR continues to hold safety related concerns for domestic gas meter set installations located inside medium and high density multi–unit apartments completed during this period.

Such gas meter set installations are designed to operate without any form of utility intervention (either inspection or maintenance) for the term of their service life. The ActewAGL service life for such installations is fifteen years.

UTR holds concern that this operating regime may in the event of an internal gas meter set fault expose occupants of an apartment to gas escaping into occupied areas within the service life of the installation.

Acknowledging odorant added to the gas facilitates leak detection, the adequacy of apartment ventilation, access and ability to isolate gas supply for such installations remains of concern to UTR.



Compliant Commercial gas meter installation

In seeking to address these safety concerns UTR prepared the Gas Service and Installation Rules Code (GS&I Rules Code), and following consultation the Code was approved by the ACT Legislative Assembly on 26 June 2013. Section 6.7(1) of the GS&I Rules Code includes the new requirement that the gas distributor's meter set installations must be installed external to a customer's building. This requirement seeks to address gas leakage safety concerns via requiring more appropriate location, ventilation, access and gas isolation requirements for new gas meter set installations.

In 2014 ActewAGL issued its Gas Service and Installation Rules as required by the GS&I Rules Code.

On 26 May 2014, the Technical Regulator approved ActewAGL's request to publish its Gas Service and Installation Rules (GS&I Rules) prepared as required by Section 4.3 of the GS&I Rules Code. From this date all new or modified gas meter installations are to as a minimum, meet the requirements of both the GS&I Rules and Australian Standards.

During 2013–14 UTR undertook an audit of a sample of 16 existing gas meter installations. The installations were located at commercial, industrial and residential sites and all included internally installed gas meter installations. All the installations inspected failed to meet "fit for purpose" requirements of the relevant technical standards.

Consequently, UTR conducted a technical audit of a further 157 of ActewAGL's business customer gas meter installations within the same reporting period. This further audit reported 68% non-compliance of the gas meter installations audited. When notified of the outcomes of this further audit in December 2014 ActewAGL initiated a remediation plan to address the public safety issues raised by UTR.

Initial findings of UTR's 2014–15 audits of gas meter installations is pleasing in that it shows significant improvement in the compliance of installations.

3.5 ASSET MAINTENANCE

a. Gas meter maintenance

ActewAGL's current maintenance practice requires that only large capacity gas meter set installations (greater than 10m³/h capacity) are periodically maintained or inspected. This practice leaves the vast majority of gas meter set installations not scheduled for any form of maintenance or inspection whilst in service. As discussed previously, UTR holds concerns with this approach for gas meter set installations located within medium density high rise apartments. In the event of an emergency where gas is released, options for termination of supply and utility access to equipment for gas isolation can be restricted. ActewAGL has undertaken to confirm the appropriateness of its maintenance practices for all classes of gas meter set installations via the completion of independently facilitated Formal Safety Assessments (FSAs). Such FSAs are planned to be completed by end September 2016. Negotiations with ActewAGL around addressing this safety concern continue.

b. Domestic gas pressure regulators

ActewAGL has reported a three-fold increase in the number of domestic gas pressure regulators replaced in the last two years. ActewAGL advises that the increase was the result of a potential design fault in the spindle and plastic cap of regulators that could lead to a gas leak. When asked for evidence of the fault to allow assessment of the public safety risk, the utility did not provide adequate supporting information. Consequently, UTR has requested that ActewAGL undertake a testing regime to confirm the extent of the risk, validate any faults and to substantiate the appropriate level of replacements. The outcome of this issue will be reported in a future annual report.

4. WATER UTILITY PERFORMANCE

Icon Water's performance in delivering water and sewer utility services was satisfactory during 2013–14 and 2014–15, as was the level of co-operation with the Utility Technical Regulator (UTR). However, as reported below:

- it was not fully compliant with the ACT Dam Safety Code 2014
- its performance in relation to sewer main breaks and chokes is below the industry average.

4.1 SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

UTR acknowledges that the nature of the water and sewer network is such that, when compared with the gas or electricity networks, the risk profile for Icon Water staff and the public is generally lower. Nevertheless, Icon Water has an established means of reporting accidents and incidents directly to UTR when they do occur as required by the UTR Act.

During 2013–14 and 2014–15 Icon Water reported no serious accidents or incidents.

4.2 EMERGENCY PLANNING

During 2013–14 and 2014–15 Icon Water submitted updates of the draft Water Supply and Sewerage Emergency Management Plan and Dam Safety Emergency Plans as required by the Emergency Planning Code 2011 and the Dam Safety Code 2014. The plans integrate with Icon Water's Emergency Management System (EMS) and were accepted as meeting requirements of the applicable codes.

4.3 ICON WATER DAM SAFETY

Icon Water commissioned the New Cotter Dam during 2013–14. This major new asset will contribute significantly to ensuring a reliable supply of drinking water for Canberra and surrounds for many years. UTR appointed independent advisors to report on compliance of the design and construction of this new dam with requirements of the ACT Dam Safety Code. The final report of UTR's advisers concluded "design and construction of the Enlarged Cotter Dam was of a satisfactory standard and has produced a structure without apparent serious defects".

Icon Water is fully responsible for the safety of all its dams and accordingly conducts an inspection and surveillance program for its five 'Scheduled Dams'.

Icon Water has acknowledged that the program is not fully compliant with the Dam Safety Code 2014 and during 2014–15 commenced a program of studies and works with a view to ensuring full compliance.

The Icon Water program will include completion of compliant safety reviews and physical works to allow Icon Water to verify that anchors providing structural support to some dams are performing to their design intent. Icon Water has advised that it anticipates that safety reviews will be completed for all Scheduled Dams by December 2018 as noted in Table 5 below.

Demonstration of dam safety requires studies and works to be completed sequentially in some instances. The 3 ½ year period from the end of the current reporting period for completion of the required four (4) dam safety reviews will provide adequate time to complete this program.



New Cotter Dam commissioned during 2013-14

4.4 ICON WATER SERVICE **DELIVERY TARGETS**

Icon Water's 2015–16 to 2018–19 Statement of Corporate Intent nominates key service delivery targets for its operation of the water and sewer networks during 2015-16, and records 2013–14 industry averages for each nominated key target.

Icon Water's key delivery targets are similar to reported industry averages in most instances. However actual performance for sewer chokes and blockages is significantly below industry average with sewer main chokes and breaks nearly 60 - 80% above industry average in 2013-14 and again in 2014-15.

Table 6 summarises specific Icon Water targets taken from its Statement of Corporate Intent, showing comparison for both water and sewer mains.

Actual reported performance for 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15 have been added based on information provided by Icon Water.

Icon Water includes the following explanatory note to its key service targets in the Statement of Corporate Intent:

"In some instances however, there exist peculiar geographic or cost implications which practically limit the extent to which performance may be improved or industry averages achieved. Improvements need to be justified on a cost-benefit basis. For example achieving an industry average for sewer main breaks and chokes is considered uneconomical due to the ACT's semi-arid climate and clay soils when compared to other capital cities."

Dam	Dam hazard category	Independent peer review of current safety review completed	Adequately demonstrated current dam safety	Year dam safety will be demonstrated ⁵
Corin	Extreme	No ²	No	December 2018
Bendora	High A	No ²	No	June 2017
New Cotter	Extreme	Not required ¹	Yes	Demonstrated
Googong	Extreme	Yes	No ³	September 2018
LMWQCC Storage	Low	No	No ⁴	December 2016

Table 5: Demonstration of safety of Icon Water dams

Notes to Table 5:

1. Safety of the New Cotter Dam was demonstrated as part of the commissioning and handover process for the dam. Current safety Safety of the New Cotter Dam Was demonstrated as part of the commissioning and handover process for the dam. Current safe of this dam has been adequately demonstrated.
The most recent safety reviews for Corin and Bendora Dams were not subject to an independent peer review, and therefore adequacy of the safety of these dams has not been demonstrated.
An independent peer review of the recent safety review completed for Googong Dam concludes that further work is required to demonstrate the safety of Googong Dam with regard to earthquake risk.
A safety review has not been completed since the LMWQCC Storage Dam was constructed in 1995 and is now due.

5. Dates are as advised by Icon Water in February 2016

Service standard	Industry average 2013–14 ¹	lcon Water target 2015-16 ¹	lcon Water actual 2012-13	lcon Water actual 2013-14	lcon Water actual 2014-15
Water main breaks (per 100 km of water main)	23	20–25	20	12	14.2
Sewerage main breaks and chokes (per 100 km of sewer main)	32	42–92	42	57	52
Property connection sewer breaks and chokes (per 1,000 properties)	6	8–15	7.6	10.3	9.6

Table 6: Selected Key service delivery targets 2015–16 from the 'Icon Water Statement of Corporate Intent'

Note 1. Taken from 2015–16 from the Icon Water Statement of Corporate Intent

Examination of Icon Water's actual performance indicates that during 2013-14 and 2014–15 water main breaks/100 km in the ACT were 50% - 60% of industry average, while sewerage main breaks and chokes were 160 - 180% of industry average. Both results occur in the same clay soils of Canberra, which is commonly accepted as the controlling factor in pipeline breaks. The key to interpreting this apparent inconsistency in performance is that historically Icon Water has reported that 90% of sewer main breaks and chokes are caused by root intrusion which is a problem for sewer mains, but not for water mains.

Root intrusion into sewer mains is a challenge which Icon Water needs to continue to research until an efficient solution is identified that maximises sewer main asset life and also minimises the incidence of breaks and chokes. UTR has discussed this issue with Icon Water as important for network integrity and serviceability. The incidence of sewer main chokes is a performance statistic which needs specific Icon Water attention. An ongoing operational expenditure program is required to address this issue. This program must also address the expected increase in chokeinitiated breaks which will occur as the sewer network ages.

Icon Water has developed a predictive method to identify water main network renewal requirements. UTR continues to monitor the application of this methodology to ensure that adequate provision is made for water main network renewal.

4.5 TRADE WASTE

Icon Water improved trade waste management practice during 2014–15 with a comprehensive survey and subsequent inspections of the premises which produce trade waste discharges. The level of compliance has been assessed and the gaps have been identified. Trade waste officers have commenced a program of communication with business operators to improve their understanding of regulatory requirements and help them achieve compliance.

During 2014–15 Icon Water published a trade waste policy, meeting the requirements of the Water Supply and Sewerage Network (Design and Maintenance) Code. It also developed of a Liquid Waste Acceptance Commercialisation business model, including a technology-based monitoring system supported by random inspection. This solution is scheduled for completion in December 2017 for inclusion in the next regulatory submission.

UTR is also working with Icon Water to resolve legacy issues associated with the location of grease traps. Resolution of these issues is vital to the full implementation of its Liquid Waste Acceptance policy. The associated land tenure matters are key to this resolution, but are outside the jurisdiction of Icon Water. UTR is well positioned to facilitate the development of a multi-agency solution and good progress has been achieved.

5. FOCUS FOR 2015-16 UTR WORK PROGRAM

5.1 UTILITY CODE REVIEW

Following approval by the ACT Legislative Assembly of the *Utilities (Technical Regulation)* 2014 Act on 28 November 2014, UTR has directed its major focus to a thorough revision of Technical Codes approved under the Act.

UTR acknowledges the constantly changing environment that utility network businesses operate within and the impacts of market changes and consumer choice on utility products and services.

It also recognises the need to support utilities to embrace innovation and new technologies enabling them to meet the needs of an urbanised modern city.

By engaging with the utilities UTR is aware of their regulatory concerns and desire for moderating regulatory requirements. Accordingly, UTR recognises the need to address current Code deficiencies limiting progressive and efficient utility operations, regulation and compliance.

UTR recognises the opportunity of working with industry to create a new regulatory framework that facilitates modern streamlined regulation and adopts best management practices, enables innovation and improves stakeholder engagement.

To this end UTR's major focus for 2015–16 is the development of a single Code for each of the licensed utility sectors - electricity distribution (but excluding transmission), gas and water - that will rationalise existing disparate and contradictory Codes and incorporate consistency of general requirements across all sectors. Provision will be made for sectorspecific requirements where appropriate.

5.2 OTHER PRIORITIES

Other priorities for UTR during 2015–16 will include the following:

- Support utilities in meeting their regulatory obligations.
- Support utilities with delivery of their Emergency Management Plans.
- Prepare annual compliance and performance questionnaires for utilities.
- Review utility compliance and performance reports.
- Conduct various audits of utility performance focusing on known problem areas.
- Support Capital Metro to develop light rail in Canberra through the preparation of Technical Codes to regulate aspects of light rail.
- Provide regulatory support for the development of renewable energy for the ACT.
- Support Icon Water and local businesses during the implementation of the trade waste policy.

Progress revision of the ACT Dam Safety Code so that its provisions align with the UTR Act and support dam owners to demonstrate safety of their dams as required by the Code.

