

# Operational Update

## Ergon Energy Contestable Works Non-Standard Depth

Issue # C-0028 – 01/09/2021

### Target Audience:

Ergon Energy Accredited Service Providers

### Introduction:

This Operational Update will specify the requirements for ASP Consultant self-assessment and approval of non-standard depths and clearances from other utility underground assets for Ergon underground cables.

### Background and Key Changes

To provide a consistent approach for Contestable Works across the state, Ergon Energy is now offering the flexibility for ASP Consultants to design without Ergon Energy written approval for conduit installations up to a maximum depth of 2.5m and reduced clearance from storm water pipe no closer than 100mm. Any constraints found in the construction phase should be referred to the ASP Consultant so they can provide the required approvals. In all cases, photographic evidence or plans showing the details of the conduits and obstructions must be obtained to support the change in design. This detailed supporting information is to be made available if requested by Ergon Energy.

- ASP Consultants can now design and approve to a depth of 2.5m (extra depth limited to 5.0m of continuous trench) without approval in writing from Ergon Energy.
- The total extra depth shall not exceed 5% of the total length of trenching in any one project.
- ASP Consultants can now design and approve to a reduced cover of 300mm (reduced cover limited to 5.0m of continuous trench) without approval in writing from Ergon Energy.
- The total reduced cover shall not exceed 5% of the total length of trenching on any one project.
- ASP Consultants can approve changes during the construction phase, not the ASP Electrical Contractor.
- Clearance from storm water pipe can be reduced to 100mm for road crossings **only**.

Ergon Energy's "standard" minimum and maximum trench depth (i.e. not the non-standard provisions), shall be considered first and foremost when designing the Ergon Energy underground network. Deviations from these standards should only be considered where these established standards cannot be met and there are no other practical solutions.

Where other asset owners require greater clearances between their assets and Ergon Energy requirements, the other asset owner standard applies, unless approval in writing is received from the other asset owner.

These changes are effective immediately.

**For more information contact:**  
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