



Position Description

Position title:	Senior Network Planning Engineer
Reports to:	Manager – Distribution Planning & Connections
Business unit:	Electricity Networks
Employment category:	[Contract (Employment Agreement) / Enterprise Agreement and pay point]

About CitiPower and Powercor

As electricity distribution companies we provide safe, reliable and affordable power to 1.3 million Victorian customers. We use our network of poles, wires and infrastructure to bring power to homes and businesses across almost 65% of Victoria — that’s more than 120,000 kilometres of wires and 850,000 poles.

But we do so much more than manage poles and wires. We’re also the gateway to a clean energy future, dedicated to finding solutions and harnessing new technology to benefit our customers, communities and the environment. This includes industry leading projects in community batteries, demand management, smart charging for electric vehicles (EVs) and microgrids.

And as more customers choose solar, batteries, EVs and smart appliances — the electricity system is becoming increasingly complex, and so too is the level of innovation required to manage it.

About the Electricity Networks team you’ll be part of

The Electricity Networks team is responsible for the efficient and effective management of our electricity distribution networks and assets. They do this through developing engineering standards, asset strategies and long-term views of the network, network planning, investing in future network technology, asset maintenance planning, network safety and compliance management and bushfire mitigation strategies.

Our core values



Live safely



Improve our business



Be customer and community minded



Be the best you can be



Succeed together

Purpose of the position

The position is responsible for developing network solutions on the electrical distribution networks within CitiPower/Powercor and United Energy in compliance with the National Electricity Rules and other codes, in addition to maintaining all safety requirements. The role includes responsibility for the scoping, analysis and business case development for all customer connection and network augmentation work on all elements of the distribution network, up to and including terminal substations. This role incorporates the valuation of non-network options and connection of generation to the grid.

The position is also responsible for optimising the network for utilisation and efficiency through detailed forecasting to define future demand and utilisation at all levels of the network. This is in addition to providing probabilistic insights and reports to the business and stakeholders to inform and enable efficient investment decisions, in addition to working to (and improving) planning policies, guidelines & standards to enable timely, safe & cost effective connections to the network.

Your key responsibilities

Network Solutions

- Undertake customer connection and network augmentation scoping, analysis and develop business cases to ensure network solutions are efficient and least cost technically acceptable
- Work with Operational teams to deliver seasonal contingency plans and advice for both planned and unplanned network outages
- Perform analysis and develop solutions for Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (REFCL) supply areas within CitiPower/Powercor to ensure the capacitive balance and other network parameters are met to ensure the REFCLs can continue to operate and comply with defined standards
- Ensure the efficient integration of generation and other innovative technologies
- Manage and undertake work to ensure generation connections are in line with NER requirements, taking into account network performance per CitiPower/Powercor and United Energy policies and guidelines
- Undertake analysis on the distribution network to define both current & future constraints and take action to ensure the network is fit for purpose and reliable into the future
- Ensure that network planning is holistically integrated with overall asset replacement planning to achieve high levels of capital expenditure efficiency

Network & Capital Works

- Undertake work to develop the network capital works program, planning future network constraints and augmentation requirements 10 years into the future
- Undertake financial justifications of network augmentations to ensure efficient use of regulated capital
- Manage key interfaces with the Design and Delivery groups and other key stakeholder groups to ensure augmentation and replacement projects are progressed and completed in accordance with project, network and organisational targets
- Provide analysis, reports & support to stakeholders for Network capacity, reliability, council, & customer matters
- Collaboratively work with the team and contribute to improve the work process interface with customer connections, supply quality, reliability, protection & control, and maintenance process streams. This includes contributions to policies and strategies for these business areas

- Prepare Regulatory Investment Test documentation for major augmentation and replacement projects, in accordance with National Electricity Rules

Network Optimisation

- Optimise the use of the Electrical Networks to ensure current and future customer needs are met, risks to the network are minimised, and both contractual obligations and regulatory requirements are met
- Undertake analysis in collaboration with all Network Planning (NP) teams ensuring all aspects of both the NP portfolio and the wider businesses are considered
- Contribute and work in conjunction with other NP teams to maintain a central database for all fault levels, capacity, voltage level analysis, and related technical information
- Provide analysis and insights to enable the effective use of both network and non-network options to meet both customer and network needs
- Actively promote capacity opportunities to stakeholders in conjunction with other members of NP
- Ensure the efficient integration of any new technologies pursued by our customers, enabling fast assessment by planners across NP, creating a clear understanding of both network and wider community benefits
- Contribute and work in conjunction with other NP teams to answer queries, develop standards, guidelines and policies relating to both connections & network planning
- Deliver on activities required to meet regulatory obligations

Manage Customer, Contribute to NP team, Communicate and Report

- Build and manage effective relationships with internal and external industry stakeholders, and actively pursue opportunities to improve customer satisfaction
- Develop and improve external reporting to improve visibility and understanding of key network issues
- Work in conjunction with other NP teams to maintain a central capital expenditure portfolio
- Actively work as a team member by assisting other NP streams and the wider Electricity Networks business unit in the delivery of analysis, projects or initiatives
- Deliver network insights in response to internal or external stakeholder questions, queries or events

What you'll bring to the business

Education / Qualifications:

- Degree Qualification in Electrical Engineering.
- When eligible it is mandatory to obtain and maintain a Registered engineering credential with the Victorian Building Licensing Authority Business
- Project management or finance qualifications will also be viewed favourably.

Knowledge:

- Proven understanding and engagement in the regulatory framework that governs network planning.
- Detailed knowledge of the Electrical Distribution Network
- Detailed system analysis, load forecasting and planning skills along with the ability to work with developers and customers to determine and satisfy their needs
- Knowledge and understanding of non-network solutions and ability to work with providers
- Detailed knowledge of the applicable standards for Electricity Industry
- Knowledge and skills in project, program management & business management
- Established financial and commercial skills and knowledge to evaluate business value
- Detailed knowledge of the electrical distribution network, particularly design and compliance with relevant customer and Australian Standards
- Knowledge & understanding of regulatory compliance issues, OHS Act, standards and codes
- Sound understanding of electrical engineering principles including distribution, sub-transmission, transmission, PV systems, and advanced knowledge of protection and control principles and processes.
- Technical expertise and sound knowledge of commissioning engineering principles/concepts.
- Proficient in initial formulation and implementation of all commissioning procedures, in accordance with the project technical specification and statutory requirements.
- Ability to manage risk throughout the project lifecycle through development and implementation of processes and systems.
- Ability to apply project management principles in an electrical distribution, sub-transmission, and transmission environments.
- Ability to visualise a completed project before it is built in order to assess its risks, opportunities and resource requirements.
- Demonstrated experience of the practical application of construction and commissioning methodology and integration into the planning phases of the project.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to liaise effectively with field workers, project teams, stakeholders and senior management

Experience:

- Hands on network modelling experience with both manual systems (e.g. Excel) and specialist applications (e.g. PSS/E)
- Solid industry experience (minimum of 5-years) focused on power system analysis and network planning focused towards electricity distribution.

- Registration with the Victorian Business Licensing Authority as a Professional Engineer (RPEV) in the field of Fire Safety / Civil / Structural / Electrical / Mechanical Engineering (select appropriate field) is required.

The skills and competencies you'll have

'Thought' competencies

1. Customer focus: Building strong customer relationships and delivering customer-centric solutions
2. Manages complexity: Making sense of complex, high quantity, and sometimes contradictory information to effectively solve problems
3. Balances stakeholders: Anticipating and balancing the needs of multiple stakeholders

'Result' competencies

1. Ensures accountability: Holding self and others accountable to meet commitments
2. Being resilient: Rebounding from setbacks and adversity when facing difficult situations
3. Action oriented: Taking on new opportunities and tough challenges with a sense of urgency, high energy, and enthusiasm

'People' competencies

1. Builds effective teams: Building strong-identity teams that apply their diverse skills and perspectives to achieve common goals
2. Collaborates: Building partnerships and working collaboratively with others to meet shared objectives
3. Communicates effectively: Developing and delivering multi-mode communications that convey a clear understanding of the unique needs of different audiences

'Self' competencies

1. Nimble learning: Actively learning through experimentation when tackling new problems, using both successes and failures as learning fodder
2. Demonstrates self-awareness: Using a combination of feedback and reflection to gain productive insight into personal strengths and weaknesses
3. Self-development: Actively seeking new ways to grow and be challenged using both formal and informal development channels

Other relevant information

- Direct reports - FTE direct reports: 0 Contractor direct reports: 0
- Budget: OPEX 0, CAPEX 0