



Richard Gross
CEO Ausgrid

Dear Richard,

I have recently been informed that the Board of the PLUS_ES Partnership propose to close the PLUS-ES High Power Test Station in Lane Cove.

Plans to close a critical product testing facility in Australia could have far-reaching implications for local manufacturing — and beyond. The High-Power Testing Station provides certification testing to Australian and international standards for electricity transmission and distribution network equipment. This includes transformers, switchgear, low voltage switchboards, busduct and fault current limiters.

It is the only testing facility in Australia that can verify the performance of components under very high current that represents fault conditions, load conditions and overload conditions. It is also the only facility in the southern hemisphere that can test to globally recognised ASTA certification standards.

This capability is a critical function for the testing of new electrical equipment, which is often mandated by Australian and New Zealand design standards, and in some instances by government regulation. Testing is also a critical stage in the research and development of new electrical equipment, and for the introduction of imported plant to confirm it conforms to local safety and performance standards.

There are many Australian manufacturers who support the transport, energy, infrastructure, defence, mining, and heavy industries sectors who require this unique facility for equipment testing.”

The Australian Institute of Refrigeration Air-conditioning and Heating (AIRAH) been approached by several our members and partner organisations who have concerns about the implications of the closure. These include a significant increase in the cost and time needed to certify new systems if companies are forced to use overseas facilities for electrical testing.

This could lead to reduced testing regimes or companies withdrawing from domestic production altogether.

Ultimately, closure of the facility could lead to job losses and business closures, weakened supply chains and a lack of local innovation.

Given the potential effect on employment, innovation, manufacturing capability and energy and critical infrastructure resilience, we believe it is important to consider options to retain the current test facility in the short-term, and to develop a longer-term plan for the continuing provision of this testing capability within Australia.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Gleeson', is positioned below the 'Regards,' text.

Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH
Chief Executive
AIRAH