Ausgrid

Neara

Ausgrid Design Template Soft Launch

Version History

Version	Ausgrid Design Template Soft Launch
1	Initial release

Contents

1. Overview

This release represents a soft launch of the Ausgrid Design Template within Neara that provides Accredited Service Providers Level 3 (ASP/3s) early access to Ausgrid libraries, including conductors, poles, overhead assemblies, environments, and reports.

Future access to Ausgrid's Neara ASP Portal will provide users with a full network model, classified LiDAR, and geo-datasets but is currently unavailable for ASP/3s until the Connections Excellence Project launches around June 2026. When launched, this project will implement a two-step authentication login for Neara, ensuring data security.

As the design template is being released prior to the Neara ASP Portal being available, some functionality within the template that is dependent on Ausgrid's model and datasets will not operate as intended. While this functionality could have been removed, retaining it within the template will support user familiarisation. This document will provide information on which features will not be available during this interim period.

2. Purpose of this Document

This document provides a summary of functionality that is unavailable due to the absence of a connection to the Ausgrid organisation (ORG).

The details of the release will be provided on the Ausgrid website for ASP/3's. The **.power** file will be provided in addition to learning guides such as videos and quick reference guides. These guides were originally produced for Ausgrid internal design Engineers. It should be noted that Ausgrid has continually developed and enhanced functionality to the design template and there may be subtle differences between these guides and current design template.

3. Disclaimer

Upon opening the **.power** file, a new project will be created. During the project naming process, users will be required to acknowledge a disclaimer confirming that they understand the limitations of the template during the soft launch period and that responsibility remains with the designer to ensure the accuracy of all design data.

The disclaimer states:

This information is provided by Ausgrid to assist authorised ASP/3 designers. The data and information provided may not be accurate, and ASP/3 designers are encouraged to undertake site visits prior to submitting designs to Ausgrid.

Ausgrid makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, or suitability for any particular purpose of the data and information provided. Ausgrid reserves the right to make a

final determination on all designs once submitted. Although Ausgrid Engineering teams have created all library information with the utmost of quality there still might be incorrect information within the material properties. For this reason, the onus is on the ASP/3 to ensure that all the data provide is suitable and fit for purpose.

4. REVIEW OF TOOLS

4.1 Datasets Tool

Datasets are normally created, processed, and managed within a project. However, datasets in Neara are global in nature, meaning they exist outside individual projects and can be referenced by multiple projects simultaneously.

As part of this soft launch, **global datasets will not be available**, as they require a connection to the Ausgrid Organisation via the Neara ASP Portal.

Common dataset types that will not be available include:

- **Network Model** – The engineering-grade representation of electricity network infrastructure (e.g. poles, conductors, assemblies). This is typically generated through automated analysis of 3D LiDAR scans, GIS data, manually created network designs, and other inputs.
- **Point Cloud** – LiDAR-based point cloud data, whether imported directly or generated through classification processes.
- **Geodata** – Spatial data derived from GIS sources, Web Feature Service (WFS) servers, or GeoJSON files.
- **Analytics (server-side)** – Large-scale reports that perform calculations and visualisations across extensive sections of the network.

4.2 Important Note

Survey data, geodata, and LiDAR point cloud data can still be manually ingested into the design template during this period. However, users will not have access to Ausgrid's centrally managed datasets until the Neara ASP Portal is officially available.

Manual data imports can be completed via the **"Importer (beta)**" tab within the **TERRAIN SURVEY** workspace switcher.

4.3 Point Cloud Tool

The Point Cloud tool is used to view, manually reclassify, and export point cloud datasets that have been imported into Neara.

As part of this soft launch, the manual reclassification of LiDAR point cloud data will not be available. Users will still be able to view and export imported point cloud data; however, any functionality related to reclassification is disabled during this period.

5. REVIEW OF WORKSPACES

5.1 VERIFICATION Workspace

The Verification workspace switcher contains critical processes and workflows used to verify the automodel and progressively bring assets to a condition suitable for engineering analysis.

5.1.1 VERIFY POLES

The Verify Poles workflow relies on the automodel to extract critical asset information. While some automated data is not available during the soft launch, this workflow can still be used to:

- Set asset statuses and references (critical for inclusion in design exports and validation reports; and
- Record verification references within the design.

It is essential that assets are selected from the Ausgrid verified libraries, rather than from the generic library elements that were retained solely to support automodel creation.

To ensure correct asset selection, designers must follow the Quick Reference Guide “Assemblies & Components” and confirm that all components are sourced from the Ausgrid verified libraries.

The last column in the VERIFY POLES report, Environmental Warnings (Ausgrid Only) contains information for users internal to Ausgrid Organisation only and who have completed the necessary Environmental training. It is anticipated that this functionality will not work for ASP/3 during the first pass roll out of the Neara ASP Portal

5.1.2 CUSTOM POLE STRENGTH

The Custom Pole Strength tab will not function as it would when connected to the Neara ASP portal. This report relies on access to Ausgrid GIS data, including:

- Pole species, and
- minimum groundline diameter measurements,

which are used to determine the in service strength of a pole.

In the absence of this data, the **Custom Pole Strength** Calculator may still be used to assist with manual strength assessments.

Designers should also use the final three columns in the report to document the verification method applied:

- **Pole has disc (Y/N)**: Tick if the pole selection criteria was based on pole disc data.
- **GL Dia. Measured in Field**: Tick if the pole capacity was manually calculated using pole species and measured minimum groundline diameter.
- **Pole Verified** - Once the appropriate pole has been selected from the Ausgrid pole library and verification is complete, the Pole Verified radio button must be ticked to demonstrate that the pole selection and verification process has been completed.

5.2 FOUNDATION Workspace

Ausgrid has introduced a version of the Pole Embedment Calculator (PEC) into the Ausgrid Design Template. This version does not yet include all features available in the standalone software; additional functionality is under development for future releases.

Excluded features are, a link to the internal Ausgrid Pole Embedment Calculator (disabled for ASP/s – see below image) ground slope, water table depth and user defined soil properties. Unlike the standalone PEC application, the Neara PEC version will not iterate pole sizes to solve for embedment depth. This can be completed manually in Neara, or by using the standalone PEC application to solve and then selecting the correct pole size within Neara.

Additionally, the PEC relies on soil geodata and therefore will not function in Neara until a connection to the Neara ASP Portal is established. It is expected that ASP/3 designers will continue to use the standalone PEC, until the Neara ASP portal is open and the soil geodata is available. PEC reports are required to be included as part of any design submission during this time.

5.3 CLEARANCES Workspace

5.3.1 GROUND CLEARANCES

Clearance checks must be performed against known and reliable surface survey data. In the absence of Ausgrid LiDAR data, ground clearance checks will default to the generic surface model, which will be **inaccurate** and **should not** be relied upon for final design verification.

All other clearances reporting will continue to work.

5.4 STRENGTH SUPPORTS Workspace

Strength Supports workspace, including pole, crossarm and stay strength reports will continue to work but results are only accurate if components within the design contain Ausgrid Library components.

NOTE: Line security environment wind speeds will be associated to the structure's highest voltage.

5.5 STRENGTH CONDUCTORS Workspace

Strength Conductors workspace, including Conductor & Insulator strength and insulator uplift reports will continue to work but results are only accurate if components within the design contain Ausgrid Library components.

5.6 FAILURE CONTAINMENT Workspace

Failure Containment workspace is fully functional. Refer to QRG for further information.

5.7 DESIGN VALIDATION Workspace

Although the design validation report will still function, it can potentially provide inaccurate record pass /fail criteria as the non-working elements within the template could produce false positives or vice versa. Use the validation report in the template to help guide where non compliances may exist within the designs, however, please check all results against expected performance. Once the Neara ASP portal is configured, the design validation report will be a useful tool in determining a PASS / FAIL criteria for design validation.

5.8 DESIGN EXPORTS Workspace

The Design Exports workspace will be supported during the soft launch. Ausgrid have created an excel spreadsheet that will enable extracting this data into formatted schedules, however this is currently unsupported as the requirement to have an API included as part of the licence is not currently supported by Neara for ASP/s.

Note: It is important to update asset reference numbers and statuses for the Design Export reports to be populated.

6. REVIEW OF PROJECT TOOLS UI PANEL

6.1 POINT CLOUD & VEG

These setting relate to the use of LiDAR and therefore will not function correctly.

6.2 MODEL QUICK ACTIONS > DESIGN EXPORTS > NEARA DESIGN EXPORT

Is only available for Ausgrid staff

7. REVIEW OF PROPERTIES PANEL - POLES

Additional Properties – The Photo Catalogue and Sap Hyperlink is only available for Ausgrid staff

8. CONTACT AND FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Ausgrid is committed to supporting ASPs through the development and maintenance of its design templates to assist in the delivery of safe, compliant, and consistent overhead distribution designs. The Neara ASP Portal represents a significant step in providing access to Ausgrid-approved templates and related resources only. This support is limited to template development and does not extend to technical guidance on software operation or powerline design methodologies.

Neara provides a support channel through the **Chat with Support** which can be found in the Help pulldown menu.

If you have any feedback regarding Ausgrid's design templates, please contact Ausgrid at:

digitaltwin@ausgrid.com.au