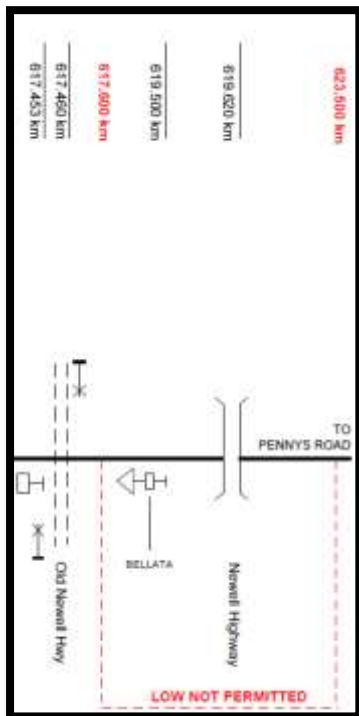


Safety Alert

ARTC No. 111
Issued 14/02/2019

Recent updates to Network Information Books (NIB's) regarding Lookout Working



Over the past six months an assessment has been undertaken throughout the Hunter Valley to identify locations where Lookout Working presents a higher risk to workers. This has involved a field-based assessment.

The purpose of this assessment was to:

- Determine areas where there may be inadequate sighting distance or insufficient access to a Safe Place when only utilising one Lookout;
- Physically identify areas within the NIB's, so that Protection Officers have an easily accessible document that assists in the identification of hazardous locations for Lookout Working before arriving on site;
- Improve the NIB's so that it can be utilised as a planning tool to identify areas where a single Lookout must not be used or plan for the use of a higher level of protection.

Several SAFE Notices have been issued advertising the amendments to the various NIB's in relation to Lookout Working over recent months. It has been identified that the wording in the SAFE Notices and on the NIB's has created some confusion if Lookout Working is permitted at these nominated locations. The purpose of this Safety Alert is to provide clarity on this.

SAFE Notice to be issued

On review of feedback received it has been determined that the wording in the NIB's requires amending to reflect the intent of the assessment. A SAFE Notice (2-4164) is being issued which will clarify that in the NIB diagrams the words "Lookout Working not permitted" is to be deleted and replaced with "Lookout Working hazardous area". Also, to help provide clarity the following additional words are being inserted in the Lookout Working Hazardous areas section of the NIB's:

The below list of locations are hazardous for Lookout Working and may require an additional Lookout or a higher level of protection to undertake work in these areas.

The Protection Officer is responsible for conducting a safety assessment and confirming that Lookout Working is suitable for the work to be performed at the location. This may require the use of an additional Lookout to ensure adequate minimum warning time to easily reach a Safe Place. If the safety assessment determines that Lookout Working is not suitable a higher level of protection must be applied.

Responsibility of Implementation of Lookout Working Protection

The implementation of worksite protection remains the responsibility of Protection Officer and these updates provide a planning tool to assist in the field assessment. Once the SAFE Notice (2-4164) has been issued amending the original wording, Lookout Working is able to be obtained in these locations. The Protection Officer is responsible for confirming that Lookout Working is suitable based on the infield safety assessment. If the safety assessment determines that Lookout Working is not suitable a higher level of protection must be applied.

Updating of the NIBs

The wording "Lookout Working Not Permitted" will be updated in the NIB's, this change will happen incrementally as a priority, but may take several weeks to be completed. Until these changes are made, Lookout Working can be obtained in these locations. SAFE Notice (2-4164) clarifies that the words "Lookout Working not permitted" is to be deleted and replaced with "Lookout Working hazardous area".

The above points of clarification are able to be applied immediately to the application of Lookout Working in the Hunter Valley.

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- For further information please speak with your leader or contact Brett Teasdale, Principal Advisor Safety on (02) 4978 9830