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Spillings.



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Form 3A/B
Rule 6.2

AMENDED STATEMENT OF CLAIM

COURT DETAILS

Court	Supreme Court of NSW
Division	Common Law
List	Common Law General
Registry	Supreme Court Sydney
Case number	2015/00310264

FILING DETAILS

Filed for	Plaintiff[s]
Legal representative	Brendan Pendergast
Legal representative reference	
Telephone	(03) 5560 2000

ATTACHMENT DETAILS

In accordance with Part 3 of the UCPR, this coversheet confirms that both the Amended Statement of Claim (e-Services), along with any other documents listed below, were filed by the Court.

Amended Statement of Claim (Amended Statement of Claim.pdf)

[attach.]

Form 3A (version 5)

UCPR 6.2

AMENDED STATEMENT OF CLAIM

COURT DETAILS

Court Supreme Court of New South Wales
Division Common Law
List General
Registry Sydney
Case number 2015/

TITLE OF PROCEEDINGS

Plaintiff **Laurence Kelvin Eades**
First Defendant **Endeavour Energy (ABN 59 253 130 873)**
Second Defendant **Asplundh Tree Expert (Australia) Pty. Ltd.**
(ABN 83 055 140 424)
Third Defendant **Pinnacle Career Development Pty Ltd**
(ABN 73 115 138 326)

FILING DETAILS

Filed for Laurance Kelvin Eades, the plaintiff
Legal representative Brendan Pendergast, Maddens Lawyers
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TYPE OF CLAIM

Torts - Negligence - Personal Injury - Nuisance * Property Damage

RELIEF CLAIMED

- 1 Damages.
- 2 **Interest** pursuant to section 100 of the *Civil Procedure Act* 2005 (NSW).

3 Costs including interest on costs.

PLEADINGS AND PARTICULARS

A. THE PLAINTIFF & GROUP MEMBERS

1. The plaintiff is and was at **all** material times the sole **proprietor** of real property situated at 1-3 St Georges Parade, Mount Victoria in the State of New South Wales ("**plaintiffs land**").

Particulars

The plaintiffs land is more particularly described in certificate of title folio **DP2455**, Lots 7-8, Section 6.

2. The plaintiff brings this proceeding on his own behalf and on behalf of the group members.
3. The Mount Victoria fire ("**Mount Victoria fire**") is the fire that started in Mount York Road, Mount Victoria in the State of New South Wales on **17 October 2013**.
4. The group members ("**group members**") to whom this proceeding relates are:
 - 4.1. all those persons who suffered personal injury (whether physical injury, or psychiatric injury as defined below) as a result of:
 - 4.1.1. the Mount Victoria **fire**; and/or
 - 4.1.2. the injury to another person as a result of the Mount Victoria fire, where "**psychiatric injury**" in this group definition means nervous shock or another psychiatric or psychological injury, disturbance, disorder or condition which has been diagnosed as such in a diagnosis given to the person by a medical practitioner prior to 30 June 2016; and
 - 4.2. all those persons who suffered loss of or damage to property as a result of the Mount Victoria fire; and
 - 4.3. all those persons who at the time of the Mount Victoria fire resided in, or had real or personal property in, the Mount Victoria fire area and who suffered economic loss, which **loss** was not consequent upon injury to that person or loss of or damage to their property; and

- 4.4. the legal personal representatives of the estates of any deceased persons in 4.2 and/or 4.3 who were group members as at the date of commencement of this proceeding.
5. As at the date of commencement of this proceeding, there are seven or more persons who have claims against the first defendant.

B. THE DEFENDANTS

Endeavour Energy

6. The first Defendant ("**Endeavour** Energy") at all material times:
- 6.1. is and was a company incorporated under the *Energy Services Corporations Act 1995* and capable of being sued;
- 6.2. carried on business as a distributor of electricity to residential and business consumers in New South Wales ("**the business**");
- 6.3. in carrying on the business was:
- 6.3.1. an energy distributor within the meaning of the *Energy Services Corporation Act 1995 (NSW)* ("**ESC Act**") and
- 6.3.2. a network operator within the meaning of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW)* ("**ES Act**");
7. In the course of and for the purposes of the business, at all material times, Endeavour Energy:
- 7.1. owned, further or alternatively had the use and management of, the poles, the pole fittings, conductors, fuses, transformers, and sub stations and like installations servicing Mount York Road, Mount Victoria (together and severally "**installations**") comprising high voltage bare or uninsulated aluminium conductors suspended from poles;
- 7.2. as part of the installations, owned, further or alternatively had the use and management of:
- 7.2.1. a 22kV 3-phase feeder line known as the Blackheath Feeder along Mount York Road, Mount Victoria, configured in the vicinity of 80-92 Mount York Road as an overhead array of 3 conductors strung in a single row of horizontally aligned conductors;

- 7.2.2. an 11kV distribution line from pole 5 on Mount York Road along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road configured as an overhead array of two aluminium conductors supported by disc insulators on wooden cross-arms ("**the power line**");

Particulars

Further particulars of the history of the construction, Installation and maintenance of the power fine will be provided following discovery and **interrogation**.

- 7.3. caused or allowed the transmission of electricity on the power line for the purposes of *inter alia* supply to residential consumers.

Asplundh Tree Expert (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

- 7A. At all relevant times, the second Defendant (**Asplundh**) was incorporated pursuant to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Pinnacle Career Development Pty Ltd

- 7B. At all relevant times, the third Defendant (**Pinnacle**) was incorporated pursuant to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

C. STATUTORY CONTEXT

8. At all material times, Endeavour Energy had the principal statutory objectives set out in section 8 of the ESC Act, which included the objective to operate efficient, safe and reliable facilities for the distribution of electricity.
9. At all material times, Endeavour Energy had the principal statutory functions set out in section 9 of the ESC Act, being:
- 9.1. to establish, maintain and operate facilities for the distribution of electricity and other forms of energy, and
- 9.2. to supply electricity and other forms of energy, and services relating to the use and conservation of electricity and other forms of energy, to other persons and bodies.
10. At all material times, the objects of the ES Act were:
- 10.1. to promote the efficient and environmentally responsible production and use of electricity and to deliver a safe and reliable supply of electricity, and

- 10.2. to confer on network operators such powers as are necessary to enable them to construct, operate, repair and maintain their electricity works, and
 - 10.3. to promote and encourage the safety of persons and property in relation to the generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity.
11. At all material times, Endeavour Energy had power under the ES Act for the purpose of exercising its functions:
- 11.1. to carry out work connected with the erection, installation, extension, alteration, maintenance and removal of electricity works (s. 45);
 - 11.2. to enter any premises by an authorised officer (s. 54-56);
 - 11.3. to trim or remove any tree situated on any premises which it had reasonable cause to believe:
 - 11.3.1. could destroy, damage or interfere with its electricity works, or
 - 11.3.2. could make its electricity works become a potential cause of bush fire or a potential risk to public safety (s.48).

D. ENDEAVOUR ENERGY 'S DUTY OF CARE

12. At all material times Endeavour Energy:
- 12.1. had the ultimate responsibility for all activities associated with the planning, design, construction, inspection, modification and maintenance of the power line;
 - 12.2. had the right, to the exclusion of other private persons to:
 - 12.2.1. construct, repair, modify, inspect and operate the power line; or
 - 12.2.2. give directions as construction, repair, modification, inspection or operation of the power line;
 - 12.3. exercised the right referred to in 12.2 above; and
 - 12.4. in the premises, had practical control over the power line.

Particulars

So far as the plaintiff is **able** to say prior to discovery, Endeavour Energy constructed, repaired, modified and inspected and operated the power line, and further gave directions to its contractors regarding the construction, repair, modification, inspection or operation of the power line and in particular in relation to inspection for hazardous

vegetation and tree clearances so as to ensure anything which could make the power line become a potential cause of fire or potential risk to public safety was clear from the power line. Further particulars may be provided prior to trial.

13. At all material times:
 - 13.1. Endeavour Energy used the power line to transmit electricity;
 - 13.2. the transmission of electricity along the power line created a risk of unintended discharges of electricity from the power line;
 - 13.3. unintended discharges of electricity from the power line were highly dangerous in that they were capable of causing death or serious injury to persons, and destruction or loss of property by:
 - 13.3.1. electrocution;
 - 13.3.2. burning by electric current; further or alternatively;
 - 13.3.3. burning by fire ignited by the discharge of electricity;
 - 13.4. in the premises set out in "13.1" to "13.3" inclusive, the transmission of electricity along the power line was a dangerous activity;
 - 13.5. Endeavour Energy knew or ought reasonably to have known of the risks referred to in "13.1" to "13.4" above.
14. At all material times, it was reasonably foreseeable to Endeavour Energy that there were risks ("**the Risks**") that:
 - 14.1. interference with conductors by trees might cause a discharge of electricity from the power line;
 - 14.2. interference with conductors by trees might cause collapse of a conductor, if sections failed under mechanical load;
 - 14.3. the risk referred to in 14.2 was higher if a crimp (also known as a **connector**)("**crimp**") used to join sections of the conductor was incorrectly installed resulting in weakness at the point of the crimp;
 - 14.4. there is likely to be an unintended discharge of electricity from the power line as the conductor collapsed and contacted the ground or other objects around the power line;

- 14.5. the discharge of electricity from the power line could cause ignition of flammable material in the vicinity of the point of discharge;

Particulars

Flammable material **is** any material capable of ignition, including without limitation ignition by the application of electric current or by contact with molten or burning metal.

- 14.6. further and in the alternative to 14.5, a discharge of electricity from the power line could cause the emission of electricity, heat or molten metal particles ("**sparks**") from the point of discharge;
- 14.7. electricity, heat or sparks emitted from a point of discharge could cause electric shock or **burns** to persons or property in the vicinity of the point of discharge;
- 14.8. electricity, heat or sparks emitted from a point of discharge could cause the ignition of fire in flammable material exposed to / in the vicinity of the point of discharge of the electricity, heat or sparks;
- 14.9. such ignition could produce a **fire** which might spread over a wide geographic area, depending on *inter alia* wind direction and velocity;

Particulars

The fire spread also depended on the amount of combustible fuel, the terrain, the environmental conditions including humidity and precipitation, the effectiveness of human fire fighting responses. Further particulars may be provided prior to trial.

- 14.10. such fire could cause death or injury to persons and loss of or damage to property within the area over which the fire spread ("**fire area**"), and consequential losses including economic losses;
- 14.11. such fire could cause damage to property and consequential losses including economic losses within areas:
- 14.11.1. affected by the physical consequence of fire, such as smoke or debris; or
- 14.11.2. the subject of emergency activity to prevent the spread of fire, including without limitation the clearing of firebreaks;
- ("affected areas")

- 14.12. such fire or its consequences could:
- 14.12.1. disrupt or impair the income-earning activities of persons residing or carrying on business in the fire area or affected areas;
 - 14.12.2. impede the use or amenity of property located in the fire area or affected areas; or
 - 14.12.3. reduce the value of property or businesses located in the fire area or affected areas;
- and thereby cause loss of a reasonable expectation of benefit or economic loss to those persons, or the owners of those properties or businesses;
- 14.13. the risks referred to in 14.8 to 14.12 above were likely to be higher during periods of high or extreme bushfire risk.
15. At all material times members of the public who:
- 15.1. were from time to time; or
 - 15.2. owned or had an interest in real or personal property; or
 - 15.3. carried on business;
- in the fire area or affected areas ("**Mount Victoria Class**"):
- 15.3.1. had no ability, or no practical and effective ability, to prevent or minimize the risk of such discharge occurring; and
 - 15.3.2. were **vulnerable** to the impact of such fire; and consequently
 - 15.3.3. were to a material degree dependent, for the protection of their persons and property, upon Endeavour Energy ensuring that the power line was safe and operated safely in the operating conditions applying to it from time to time.

Particulars

Particulars of the area affected by the Mount Victoria fire will be provided prior to trial.

The operating conditions referred to included the level of electrical current being transmitted along the power lines, the physical environment around the power lines including without limitation wind direction and speed, ambient temperature, the presence of objects capable of coming into contact with the

power lines (including without limitation trees) and the amount of combustible fuel around or below the power lines.

16. At all material times the plaintiff and each of the group members were:
- 16.1. persons within the Mount Victoria class; or
 - 16.2. dependents of persons within the Mount Victoria class; or
 - 16.3. persons likely to suffer mental injury, psychiatric injury or nervous shock as a result of the injury to persons within the Mount Victoria class.
17. In the premises set out in paragraphs 8 to 16 inclusive, alternatively paragraphs 8 and 12 to 16 inclusive, at all material times Endeavour Energy owed to the plaintiff and each of the group members a **non-delegable** duty:
- 17.1. to take reasonable care, by its officers, servants and agents; and
 - 17.2. a duty to ensure that reasonable care was taken, by its agents or contractors, to avoid the materialisation of the Risks ("**Endeavour Duty**").

E. STANDARD OF CARE

General Circumstances

18. At all material times, Mount Victoria in the vicinity of the power line:
- 18.1. was a high bushfire risk area for the purposes of tree management.

Particulars

Mount Victoria in the vicinity of the power line is a semi-rural area adjacent to the Blue Mountains National Park.

A copy of the document "**Tree Management Plan**" June 2007 prepared by Endeavour Energy pursuant to clause 137 of the *Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001* ("**Tree Management Plan**") may be inspected by appointment at the office of the plaintiff's solicitors.

- 18.2. featured a large number of trees, including a large *Eucalyptus* tree adjacent to the power line between Endeavour Energy poles 3 and 4 ("**poles 3 and 4**") along the driveway to 80-92 Mount York Road, Mount Victoria ("**the Tree**") which was:
 - 18.2.1. overhanging the power line; or

18.2.2. of such height and sufficiently close to the power line that if it fell or shed branches there was a material risk that it would fall onto or across the power line;

18.2.3. of such height and weight and supported branches of such size and weight, that there was a material risk that the Tree or branch falling across the power line would cause:

18.2.3.1. the power line conductors to break; and

18.2.3.2. electrical arcing to occur between a broken conductor and the ground or vegetable matter under the power line.

19. At all material times:

19.1. the two conductors on the power line between Endeavour Energy poles 3 and **4 ("the Conductors")** were bare or uninsulated high voltage 11kV aluminium aerial conductors;

19.2. there was a material risk that in the event of one or both of the Conductors being broken by a tree or branch they could arc with the ground and/or vegetation on the ground;

19.3. the protection systems regulating the power line included sensitive earth fault protection at Blackheath zone substation and such other protection which is known by Endeavour Energy but is not known to the plaintiff;

Particulars

Further particulars may be provided following the completion of discovery and receipt of expert evidence.

19.4. the protection systems regulating the power line were such that there was a material risk that, in the event of a conductor breaking and falling to the ground, the protection systems would or could allow current to continue to be transmitted through the power line to cause ignition of a fire, especially in dry and windy conditions.

Particulars

So far as the plaintiff is able to say prior to discovery, interrogation, and receipt of expert evidence, the protection systems on the power line were such that after a conductor failure, electricity would or could continue to be transmitted, during which ignition of dry vegetation could occur.

- 19.5. there was a material risk that an arc or current transmitted between a fallen conductor and the ground and/or vegetation on the ground could produce heat or electrical discharge;
 - 19.6. there was a material risk that heat or electrical discharge from a fallen conductor could ignite dry vegetation in the vicinity;
 - 19.7. the risk referred to in "19.6" was higher when conditions around the power line were dry and hot and windy than when conditions were moist, cool and calm;
 - 19.8. the dry, hot and windy conditions which increased the risk referred to in "19.7" above were also likely to increase the risks of a tree falling, or shedding branches, across the power line.
20. At all material times:
- 20.1. between poles 3 and 4, the Conductors were aligned in an approximate east-west direction;
 - 20.2. one of the Conductors ("**the southern conductor**") had three crimps installed within its length between poles 3 and 4 joining original or replacement sections of conductor in the power line;

Particulars

The Conductors have been removed from the power line and are in the possession of Endeavour Energy.

- 20.3. the crimps on the southern conductor were installed by or on behalf of Endeavour Energy:
 - 20.3.1. during construction of the power line;

Particulars

Further particulars shall be provided following discovery and interrogation.

- 20.3.2. further and in the alternative, as a consequence of previous interaction(s) between vegetation and the power line resulting in damage to the southern conductor, and a fire;

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon *Integral Energy System Operations Branch Report No. 0507765* and *Fire Investigation Report No. 507797*, both dated 31 August 2005.

Further particulars shall be provided following discovery and interrogation.

- 20.3.3. further and in the alternative, as a consequence of other incident(s) resulting in damage to the southern conductor;

Particulars

Further particulars shall be provided following discovery and interrogation.

- 20.4. there was a material risk that:
 - 20.4.1. incorrectly installed crimps;
 - 20.4.2. damaged aluminium conductor placed within crimps;
 - 20.4.3. dyes incorrectly applied to crimps and/or incorrectly positioned conductor within the crimp resulting in damage to conductors; and/or
 - 20.4.4. insufficient conductor being placed within the crimp,when joining or replacing sections of conductor would result in reduced and inadequate tensile strength in the southern conductor;
- 20.5. there was a material risk that reduced and inadequate tensile strength in the southern conductor would result in:
 - 20.5.1. conductor failure upon interaction between the southern conductor and vegetation; and
 - 20.5.2. realisation of the risks referred to in "19.2" to "19.8" above;
- 20.6. the risks referred to in "20.5" were higher when there was a tree and/or a branch of sufficient height and weight in proximity to the power line.

- 21. At all material times Endeavour Energy:

- 21.1. knew; or
 - 21.2. being the network operator ought reasonably to have known;
- the matters set out in the three preceding paragraphs.

Endeavour Energy's Network Management Plan

22. As a network operator, Endeavour Energy was required to and did lodge a Network Management Plan with the Director General of the Department of Trade and Investment.

Particulars

Pursuant to clause 8 of the *Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Maintenance) Regulation 2008* (ES Regulations) Endeavour Energy lodged the Endeavour Energy Network Management Plan 2011-2013.

23. Endeavour Energy's Network Management Plan was required to include and did include, among other things:
- 23.1. a systematic identification of hazardous events that might be expected to occur;
 - 23.2. a specification of the operational, maintenance and organisational safeguards intended to prevent those events from occurring; and
 - 23.3. provision for bushfire risk management with the objects:
 - 23.3.1. to ensure public safety;
 - 23.3.2. to establish standards that must be observed when electricity lines operate near vegetation;
 - 23.3.3. to reduce interruptions to electricity supply that are related to vegetation;
 - 23.3.4. to minimise the possibility of fire ignition by electricity lines.

Particulars

Clauses 8 and 9 of the ES Regulations

24. In its Network Management Plan, Endeavour Energy:
- 24.1. identified trees and systems failures as potential causes of hazardous events, being fallen conductors and/or arcing mains, and bushfire (Chapter 1 para [5.3.4]);
 - 24.2. specified its Mains Designs and Maintenance Standards as the safeguards intended to prevent those hazardous events from occurring (Chapter 1 para [5.3.4]); and
 - 24.3. identified its primary documentation applicable to the minimisation of bushfire risk, including (Chapter 4 para [3.2]):

- 24.3.1. Mains Maintenance Instruction **MMI 0001**- Routine Above and Below Pole and Line Inspection & Treatment Procedures ("**MMI 0001**");
- 24.3.2. Mains Maintenance Instruction **MMI 0013**- Clearances to be Maintained Between Power Lines and Trees ("**MMI 0013**");
- 24.3.3. Workplace Instruction **WNV 1012** - Pre Summer Bushfire Map Patrols, inspections and Defect Reporting; and
- 24.3.4. Workplace Instruction **WNV 0811** –Vegetation Management Pre-Summer Bushfire Requirements

("the Primary Documentation").

25. Endeavour Energy was obliged to implement its Network Management Plan.

Particulars

Clause 8(4) of the ES Regulations

26. At **all** material times, Endeavour Energy was required by the Network Management Plan and the Primary Documentation to:
- 26.1. construct, repair and maintain conductors forming part of its network assets at an appropriate and safe standard so as to mitigate the risk of conductor failure;
 - 26.2. maintain the minimum clearances between vegetation and its network assets in accordance with **MMI 0013 ("Clearance Space")**;

Particulars

- (a) **MMI 0001 (Am 15)** - [5.2], [5.12.4.5], [5.23], [5.21.7], Annexure 7;
 - (b) **MMI 0013 (Am 9)**-[5.0].
- 26.3. identify and remove:
- 26.3.1. all dead, dying, dangerous or visually damaged vegetation, including limbs or trees; and
 - 26.3.2. any tree that could come into contact with an electric power line having regard to foreseeable local conditions;

("Hazardous Trees")

Particulars

MMI 0013 (Am 9)- [5.1.6] and [5.1.7];

Dead, dying, dangerous or visually damaged vegetation, including limbs or trees, is any vegetation that has the potential to adversely impact on the reliability of the network under normal or adverse weather conditions, including vegetation that is dead, dying, dangerous or visually damaged or is potentially unsafe for any reason (MMI 0013 - [4.0])

- 26.4. for all uncovered network assets, **inspect** the space outside the Clearance Space to identify any Hazardous Trees situated above a line projected at 45° from the vertical from the lowest conductor at a design height of 5.5 metres above ground ("**the Hazard Space**");
- 26.5. trim to at least the lowest conductor height or, at the request of the land owner or manager, remove, any Hazardous Tree located in the Hazard Space.

Particulars

MMI 0013 (Am 9)-[5.1.8].

27. At all material times, Endeavour Energy was required by the Network Management Plan and the Primary Documentation to conduct:
- 27.1. annual Pre-Summer Bushfire Inspections ("**PSBI**") in all designated bushfire prone areas ("**PSBI program**");

Particulars

- (a) Network Management Plan [3.4];
 - (b) MMI 0001 (Am 15) - [5.2], [5.12.4.5], [5.23], [5.21.7], Annexure 7;
 - (c) Workplace Instruction WNV 1012 - Pre Summer Bushfire Map Patrols, Inspections and Defect Reporting; and
 - (d) Workplace Instruction WNV **0811** - Vegetation Management Pre-Summer Bushfire Requirements.
- 27.2. Vegetation Management inspections of its network assets to ~~be~~ undertaken as frequently as provided for in the contract with any contractor engaged to undertake the inspections and, in any event, at least annually ("**the Vegetation Management program**");

Particulars

- (a) Network Management Plan [3.4];
- (b) MMI 0013 (Am 9) - [4.0], [5.5].

28. The purpose of the PSBI program was to identify any factors associated with Endeavour Energy's overhead mains within designated bushfire prone areas that could lead to the ignition of a bushfire.
29. A purpose of the Vegetation Management program was to minimise the risk of **bushfires** caused by contact between vegetation and overhead powerlines.
30. As part of its Vegetation Management and PSBI programs, Endeavour Energy was required to inspect for, identify and trim or remove any Hazardous Trees located within the Clearance Space or the Hazard Space in accordance with MMI 0013.

Training to Identify Hazardous Trees

31. In order to comply with the requirements of the Network Management Plan and the Primary Documentation to inspect for and identify Hazardous Trees, Endeavour Energy was required to ensure that the persons whom it employed or engaged to conduct its Vegetation Management and PSBI programs were competent to inspect for and identify potentially Hazardous Trees.
32. To be competent to inspect for and identify potentially Hazardous Trees, a vegetation inspector requires appropriate training in the inspection and identification of Hazardous Trees ("**Appropriate Training**").

Particulars

Appropriate Training is that necessary to enable a person without any previous arboricultural or horticultural qualifications or experience to be able to identify signs that a tree was potentially a Hazardous Tree. Appropriate training would include:

- (a) a visual tree assessment training course, such as that offered by QTRA;
- (b) an appropriately designed in-house training course conducted by a qualified arborist;

Additional training in tree risk assessment would enable an inspector to both identify and assess potentially Hazardous Trees. Such training would include:

- (c) a tree **risk** assessment training course, such as that offered by QTRA;
- (d) an appropriately designed in-house tree risk assessment course conducted by a qualified arborist.

Endeavour Energy's Vegetation Inspection Contracts

33. At all relevant times prior to August 2012:
- 33.1. line inspections pursuant to MMI-0001 ("**line inspections**") at Mount York Road, including of the power line;
- 33.2. inspections pursuant to the Vegetation Management program and the PSBI program in the Northern Region (which included Mount York Road),
- were conducted by persons employed by Endeavour Energy.
34. If (which is denied) the Endeavour Duty was delegable and could be discharged by the appointment of competent contractors, the Endeavour Duty included a duty to exercise reasonable care in the appointment and supervision of the contractors.
35. On or about 1 August 2012, Endeavour Energy entered into a contract with **Aspiundh** Tree Expert (Australia) Pty Ltd ("**Asplundh**") by which it appointed Aspiundh to supply vegetation management services in the Northern Region ("**Aspiundh Contract**").

Particulars

The Aspiundh Contract is in writing and comprises Master Supply Agreement and Supply Schedule No. 1523/12C between Endeavour Energy and Aspiundh for the Narellan, Katoomba and Sprinahill Areas –Distribution only, executed by Aspiundh on or about 13 July 2012.

36. Pursuant to the Aspiundh Contract, Aspiundh was required within the Northern Region (which included Mount York Road) to, among other things:
- 36.1. perform (on a rolling basis) quarterly inspections of vegetation in proximity to overhead electricity network assets (cl. 7.5.1.1), as part of the Vegetation Management program;
- 36.2. achieve and maintain minimum clearances between vegetation and Endeavour Energy's overhead network assets in accordance with MMI 0013, including the identification and rectification of Hazardous Trees within the clearances to be maintained (cl. 2.1, 7.2, 7.5.1);
- 36.3. carry out PSBI and defect rectification of all designated bushfire prone areas prior to the commencement of the declared bushfire season, normally 1 October each year (cl. 7.3);

- 36.4. perform discretionary works approved by Endeavour Energy's Vegetation Control Manager (cl. 2.1. 7.7): and
- 36.5. comply with Endeavour Energy's mandatory training requirements outlined in Workplace Instruction WVM 0812 (cl. 4.7).

Particulars

The clauses referred to above are those contained in in Annexure B- Technical Specification to the Supply Schedule No. 1523/12C between Endeavour Energy and Aspiundh.

37. There were written terms of the Aspiundh Contract that:
- 37.1. Aspiundh would comply with Endeavour **Services'** policies and procedures, and all applicable legislative requirements fcl. 2.3 and 3];
- 37.2. Aspiundh would ensure that all personnel engaged to carry out the services were fully trained, Qualified and authorised prior to commencing work, and were competent to carry out their duties fcl 4.5, 4.8];
- 37.3. a defect is any vegetation identified to be within the Minimum Safety Clearances specified in MMI 0013 [cl. 7.21];
- 37.4. 100% of all bushfire prone area shall be patrolled/inspected and any identified defects shall be cut to MMI 0013 Minimum Trimming Clearances for bushfire prone areas [cl.7.3]; and
- 37.5. all dead, **dvina**, dangerous and visually damaged vegetation/trees within the clearances to be maintained between network assets and vegetation (MMI 0013) are to be removed at minimum to a height equivalent to that of the lowest conductor fcl. 7.5.1 (e)].

Particulars

The clauses referred to above are those contained in Annexure B- Technical Specification to the Supply Schedule No. 1523/12C between Endeavour Energy and Aspiundh. Further particulars **may** not be provided until discovery is provided.

The plaintiff will **rely** at trial on the Aspiundh Contract for its full terms and effect.

38. On or about 20 July 2012, Endeavour Energy entered into a contract with Pinnacle by which it appointed Pinnacle to supply vegetation management maintenance and audit services in the Northern and Central Regions ("**Pinnacle contract**").

Particulars

The Pinnacle Contract is in writing and comprises "Services Agreement 1523/12C Vegetation Management Maintenance and Audit Northern and Central" between Endeavour Energy and Pinnacle executed on behalf of Pinnacle on 16 July 2012 and on behalf of Endeavour Energy on 20 July 2012 [END.806.001.0001]. The Pinnacle Contract includes Technical Specification, Tender, and Correspondence being Annexures A, B and C respectively to the Pinnacle contract.

Further particulars may not be provided until discovery is provided.

39. Pursuant to the Pinnacle Contract, Pinnacle was required within the Northern Region (which included Mount York Road) to, among other things:
- 39.1. Scope and audit as necessary to provide clearance to Endeavour Energy's overhead network along roadsides, public lands and/or private property ("Services") [cl 7.21:
 - 39.2. Audit maps and defects to the Minimum Trimming Clearances specified in MMI 0013 rd 7.1 and 7.2.21:
 - 39.3. perform the Services with due care and skill.

Particulars

Further particulars may be provided prior to trial.

The plaintiff will rely at trial on the Pinnacle Contract for its full terms and effect.

40. There were written terms of the Pinnacle Contract that:
- 40.1. Pinnacle would comply with Endeavour Services' policies and procedures, and all applicable legislative requirements [cl. 2.3 and 31;
 - 40.2. Pinnacle would ensure that all personnel engaged to carry out the services were fully trained. Qualified and authorised prior to commencing work, and were competent to carry out their duties fcl 4.5, 4.8];
 - 40.3. a defect is any vegetation identified to be within the Minimum Safety Clearances specified in MMI 0013 fcl. 7.11;
 - 40.4. 100% of all program maps will be scoped to the clearances required between vegetation/trees and Endeavour Energy's overhead network assets including the transmissions and distribution ground type substations, overhead

powerlines, regulators, switching stations and other electrical apparatus (refer MMI 0013) [cl.7.2.1(a)]; and

- 40.5. all dead, ~~dvinc~~, dangerous and visually damaged vegetation/trees within the clearances to be maintained between network assets and vegetation (MMI 0013) are to be identified for removal at minimum to a height equivalent to that of the lowest conductor fcl. 7.2.1(b)].

Particulars

The clauses referred to above are those contained in Annexure A-Technical Specification to the Pinnacle Contract.

Further particulars may be provided prior to trial.

The plaintiff will rely at trial on the Pinnacle Contract for its full terms and effect.

41. The plaintiff refers to and repeats paragraph 26 above as to the identification of the version of MMI 0013 and the procedures set out therein, in accordance with which:

41.1. Aspiundh were required to conduct services under the Aspiundh Contract: and

41.2. Pinnacle were required to conduct services under the Pinnacle Contract.

42. From the commencement of the:

42.1. Aspiundh Contract: and

42.2. Pinnacle Contract.

and from time to time thereafter Endeavour provided to Aspiundh and Pinnacle copies of its policies as amended from time to time, including MMI 0001, WNV 1012 and WNV 0811, and in particular procedure MMI 0013.

43. In or about 2012, Endeavour Energy entered into a contract with Heli-Aust Pty Ltd ("**Heli-Aust**") for Heli-Aust to undertake a PSBI video review and ground line inspection services for the period 2 April 2012 to 1 April 2015 ("**Heli-Aust Contract**").

Particulars

The Heli-Aust Contract is in writing and comprises the "*Services Agreement 1515/11C*".

44. On or about 28 April 2013, Endeavour Energy entered into a contract with Osborne for Osborne to undertake a PSBI program (**Osborne Contract**).

Particulars

The Osborne Contract is in writing and comprises the "**Services Agreement-6332/12 Endeavour Energy Pre-Summer Bushfire Inspection Program**" executed on behalf of Osborne on 28 April 2013 and on behalf of Endeavour Energy on 29 April 2013.

45. Under the Osborne Contract, Osborne was required to:
- 45.1. inspect Endeavour **Energy's** electricity works within the PSBI Bushfire Map area (which included Mount York Road) and the vegetation in proximity to the electricity works by helicopter patrols or, where helicopter patrols could not be performed, by ground line inspections;
 - 45.2. comply with policies issued by Endeavour Energy and provided to Osborne, including MMI 0001 and MMI 0013;
 - 45.3. identify any Hazardous Trees for rectification or removal in accordance with MMI 0013;
 - 45.4. act in a professional, efficient and safe manner and without negligence in carrying out its contractual duties.

Particulars

Osborne Contract, cl 5.1, 5.2; Schedule 2, Sections 5.4, 7.0, 14.0 and 17.0.

46. On or about 22 May 2013, Endeavour Energy entered into a contract with Active Tree Services (ATS) by which it engaged ATS to provide vegetation management services within specified Endeavour Energy franchise areas ("**ATS Contract**").

Particulars

The ATS Contract is in writing and comprises:

- (a) Master Supply Agreement for the Supply of Goods and Services between Endeavour Energy and ATS with an effective date of on or about 22 May 2013; and
- (b) Supply Schedule No.6383/12C under the Master Supply Agreement referred to in (a) with an effective date of 1 June 2013.

The specified Endeavour Energy franchise areas were varied from about 9 September 2013 to include distribution lines in **Katoomba** including Mount York Road.

47. Pursuant to the ATS Contract, ATS was required within the specified Endeavour Energy franchise areas (which included Mount York Road from 9 September 2013) to, among other things:

- 47.1. perform inspections (scoping) of vegetation in proximity to overhead electricity network assets (cl 2.1);
- 47.2. scope to the clearances required between vegetation and Endeavour Energy's overhead network assets in accordance with MMI 0013 (cl. 7.2.1(a));
- 47.3. identify Hazardous Trees within the clearances to be maintained (cl. 7.2.1(d)).

Particulars

The clauses referred to above are those contained in Annexure B to Supply Schedule No.6383/12C, *Technical Specification- Scoping*.

- 48. ATS as agent of Endeavour Energy did not inspect the Conductors, trees and vegetation, including the Tree along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road pursuant to the ATS Contract prior to the Mount Victoria bushfire.

Particulars

Endeavour Energy's database called AM4 records that ATS did not inspect the power line until 15 November 2013.

Known Inspections of the Tree prior to the Mount Victoria fire

- 49. In the period from 2011 to the Mount Victoria fire, Endeavour Energy and/or contractors as agents of Endeavour Energy:
 - 49.1. carried out line inspections at Mount York Road.

Particulars

- (a) ~~During the period 15~~ On or about 22 August to 5-September 2012, line inspections at Mount York Road were carried out by Gordon Lee of Gorson Contracting Pty Ltd on behalf of Warpole Pty Ltd. The plaintiff refers to the statement of Jim Battersby, Chief Engineer of Endeavour Energy, to NSW Police dated 25 March 2014, and the letter from Warpole Pty Ltd to the NSW Coroner's Court dated 19 August 2015.
- (b) Further particulars of line inspections by Endeavour Energy and its contractors as agents of Endeavour Energy may be provided after discovery.
- 49.2. conducted PSBI program inspections of the Conductors, trees and vegetation, including the Tree, in proximity to poles 3 and 4 along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road ("**PSBI Program Inspections**"):
 - (a) on dates in the period from 2008 to 2011, known to Endeavour Energy but not to the plaintiff, vegetation inspectors employed by Endeavour

Energy conducted inspections of the power line as part of its PSBI Program;

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon the statement of Tv Christopher dated 19 May 2015 filed in the Coronial Inquirv in to the Springwood and Mount Victoria Fires, at paragraph f881.

Further particulars may be provided after discovery.

- (b) on or about 18 February 2011, Endeavour Energy conducted a ground line inspection;
- (c) on or about 31 July 2012, Heli-Aust pursuant to the Heli-Aust contract and as agent for Endeavour Energy conducted an aerial inspection;
- (d) on or about 26 May 2013, which identified a defect on pole 4:

Particulars

The plaintiff refers to the statement of Jim Battersbv. Chief Engineer of Endeavour Energy, to NSW Police dated 25 March 2014.

- (e) on or about 9 June 2013, Osborne pursuant to the Osborne contract and as agent for Endeavour Energy conducted a LIDAR inspection;
- (f) on or about 11 November 2012. Active Tree Services pursuant to the Active Tree Services contract and as agent for Endeavour Energy conducted a ground line inspection, and notified Endeavour Energy of defects involving vegetation within trimming clearances;
- (g) further particulars may be provided after discovery.

49.3. conducted Vegetation Management program inspections of the Conductors, trees and vegetation, including the Tree, along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road ("**Vegetation Management Inspections**");

Particulars

- (a) On dates in the period from 1 July 2008 to about August 2012 known to Endeavour Energy but not to the plaintiff:
 - (i) vegetation inspectors employed by Endeavour Energy conducted inspections of the power line as part of its Vegetation Management Inspections program;

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon the statement of Tv Christopher dated 19 May 2015 filed in the Coronial Inquiry in to the Springwood and Mount Victoria Fires, at paragraph [18]. Further particulars may be provided after discovery.

- (ii) which inspections were audited for compliance by contractors.

Particulars

Further particulars may be provided after discovery.

(b) in or about 2011/early 2012, vegetation inspectors employed by Endeavour Energy completed the inspection and trimming process, and confirmed compliance on 20 February 2012;

(c) on 24 February 2012. Pinnacle verified to Endeavour Energy that the work completed by Endeavour Energy in or about 2011/2012 referred to in the previous sub-paragraph was compliant;

Particulars to sub-paragraphs 49.3 (b) and (c)

The plaintiff refers to the statement of Jim Battersby, Chief Engineer of Endeavour Energy, dated 25 March 2014 to NSW Police. Further particulars may be provided after discovery.

(d) in or about 22 November 2012, Aspiundh pursuant to the Aspiundh Contract and as agent for Endeavour Energy:

- (i) inspected the Conductors, trees and vegetation, including the Tree, along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road;
- (ii) identified that a tree overhung the power line between poles 5 and 4;
- (iii) notified Endeavour Energy that a tree overhung the power line between poles 5 and 4;

Particulars

Further particulars may be provided after discovery.

- 49.4. did not identify the Tree as encroaching within the minimum clearances or within the space above the minimum clearances set out in MMI 0013;
- 49.5. did not identify the Tree as a Hazardous Tree;
- 49.6. took no action in relation to the Tree.
50. Further:
- 50.1. in or about November 2012. Pinnacle pursuant to the Pinnacle Contract and as agent for Endeavour Energy:
- (a) inspected the **Conductors**, trees and **vegetation**, including the **Tree**, along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road:
- (b) identified an HV defect inside trimming clearances between Poles 3 and 4 (**scoping data**):

Particulars

The work to be undertaken involved trimming the Tree alternatively another eucalyptus tree and some scrub near a gate (work). Further particulars **may** be provided after discovery.

- 50.2. on 12 November 2012. Pinnacle submitted to Endeavour Energy the work and scoping data:
- 50.3. on 13 November 2012. Endeavour Energy notified this work and scoping data to Aspiundh:
- 50.4. between 13 November 2012 and 9 January 2013, Aspiundh undertook clearance works including the work between **poles** 3 and 4:
- 50.5. on 9 January 2013. Aspiundh notified Endeavour Energy that the work was completed and compliant:
- 50.6. between 9 January 2013 and 17 January 2013. Pinnacle again inspected the inspected the **Conductors**, trees and **vegetation**, including the **Tree**, along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road: and
- 50.7. On 17 January 2013. Pinnacle verified to Endeavour Energy that the work was compliant.

Particulars to sub-paragraphs 50.1 to 50.7

The plaintiff refers to the statement of Jim Battersby, Chief Engineer of Endeavour Energy, dated 25 March 2014 to NSW Police. Further particulars may be provided after discovery.

51. In the course of one or each of the Vegetation Management inspections and/or the PSBI Program Inspections, and/or the inspections and works referred to in the previous paragraph, the Tree should have been identified by persons conducting the inspections and/or the works as a Hazardous Tree, in that:
- 51.1. its condition was such that it could come into contact with the Conductors in foreseeable local conditions;
 - 51.2. its condition was such that it had the potential to adversely impact on the reliability of the network under normal or adverse weather conditions;
 - 51.3. its location was such that if it fell it represented a serious risk to network assets;
 - 51.4. its health was such that it was a potential serious hazard under the range of weather conditions that could reasonably be expected to prevail in the locality; and
 - 51.5. if it fell onto the power line it had the propensity to cause a bush fire.

Particulars of the tree

Prior to the October 2013 failure the Tree was at least 20 metres high, 10 metres wide and with a trunk diameter at breast height of 500-600mm.

The Tree overhung the power line and/or was within the space above the minimum trimming clearance of 2.5 metres. Further particulars will be provided as to the spatial relationship between the Tree and the Conductors.

The Tree was approximately 50 to 80 years old.

The structure of the Tree was poor being strongly asymmetric and exhibiting a trunk lean to the south-west of approximately forty degrees (40°) from vertical. A vertical first order branch of approximately 300mm in diameter is present at 3.6m above ground level and forms the primary crotch. A partially occluded wound is present on the south side of the primary crotch with branch diameter at the wound being approximately 450mm.

The Tree suffered from extensive fungal decay with termite activity affecting the trunk of the Tree from below the primary crotch and affecting the integrity of the Tree. The lower branch from the primary crotch which failed was approximately 80% decayed on a diameter basis.

Signs that the Tree was at risk of failing upon an appropriate inspection included:

- (a) the 40° lean of the Tree from perpendicular;
- (b) the majority of the canopy being located to the south-west of the centre of the root crown;
- (c) an absence of adaptive growth on the tension face of the root crown to improve structure and improve stability;
- (d) an open cavity on the upper surface of the failed branch;
- (e) severe termite damage and fungal decay in the partially occluded wound on the south side of the primary crotch;
- (f) a large stub 350mm in diameter created by a previous branch failure in approximately 2005 from the lower branch from the primary crotch with a large diameter cavity ("the cavity"), and severe fungal decay and termite activity being present;
- (g) wound wood on the branch stub in (f).

Upon one or more of the above signs being observed which indicated decay with termite activity or other health issues with the Tree, further investigation would have confirmed the existence of the rot and termites by:

- (i) tapping the Tree trunk at breast height with an inspection mallet which would have resulted in an obvious hollow sound indicating the extent of the decay; and
- (ii) if further proof of the dry rot and its extent was needed pushing a screw driver into the Tree at the site of the cavity which would clearly demonstrate the decay and its extent.

52. Further, by reason of the matters set out in paragraph 44--51 above, in the course of one or each of the inspections and/or the work set out in the particulars to paragraph ~~43-48~~ and 49 and 50 above, the Tree should have been identified by Endeavour Energy by itself or its agents as a tree that could:

- 52.1. damage or interfere with its electricity works, or
- 52.2. make its electricity works become a potential cause of bush fire or a potential risk to public safety.

53. In the premises set out in paragraphs 18 to 32, 44-51 and 45-52 above, at all material times, the Endeavour Duty required Endeavour Energy, acting reasonably to exercise reasonable care:

- 53.1. to install crimps correctly when joining or replacing sections of conductor;

- 53.2. to identify Hazardous Trees located within:
 - 53.2.1. the Clearance Space; and/or
 - 53.2.2. the Hazard Space; and
- 53.3. to trim or remove Hazardous Trees identified within the Clearance Space and/or the Hazard Space.

F. ASPLUNDH'S DUTY OF CARE

- 54. At all material times, Aspiundh knew or ought reasonably to have known of the risks referred to in paragraphs 13.1 to 13.4 above.
- 55. At all material times:
 - 55.1. the Risks defined in paragraph 14 above were reasonably foreseeable to Aspiundh;
 - 55.2. Aspiundh knew or ought reasonably to have known of the Risks.
- 56. During the term of the Aspiundh Contract, Aspiundh provided services to Endeavour Energy, including in respect of the power line referred to in sub-paragraph 7.2.2 above.
- 57. By reason of the matters alleged at paragraphs 35 to 37, and ~~56~~ 56 above, Aspiundh had a responsibility for and a degree of control over:
 - 57.1. the assessment of vegetation clearances surrounding parts of Endeavour Energy's distribution network, including the power line;
 - 57.2. the implementation and observance by its employees of the requirements of the Aspiundh Contract and of Endeavour Energy's policies and procedures, including MMI 0013, during and for the purposes of assessing vegetation clearances and related clearance works;
 - 57.3. the knowledge, training and experience of the employees it engaged to perform services under the Aspiundh Contract, including the assessment of vegetation within the Clearance Space and/or the Hazard Space.
- 58. During the term of the Aspiundh Contract, it was reasonably foreseeable that any failure by Aspiundh, its servants or agents, to observe and implement the requirements of the Aspiundh Contract and of Endeavour Energy's policies in respect

of the assessment of vegetation clearances could result in the materialisation of the Risks alleged in paragraph 55 above.

59. Throughout the term of the Aspiundh Contract the plaintiff and group members were:
- 59.1. vulnerable to the Risks materialising; and
- 59.2. for the purposes of protecting themselves and their property and their economic interests against the Risks, reliant on Aspiundh by its servants and agents exercising reasonable care in undertaking services under the Aspiundh Contract.
60. In the premises, throughout the term of the Aspiundh Contract, Aspiundh and its relevant employees owed to the plaintiff and group members a duty to take reasonable care and to ensure that reasonable care was taken by them:
- 60.1. in providing services, in particular, in conducting assessments of vegetation outside the Clearance Space that could fall within the Clearance Space and come into contact with power lines:
- 60.2. to ensure that the assessment of vegetation outside the Clearance Space was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Aspiundh Contract and of Endeavour Energy's policies and procedures including MMI 0013;
- 60.3. to ensure that persons engaged to conduct the assessments of vegetation outside the Clearance Space were competent to inspect for and identify Hazardous Trees:
- 60.4. alternatively, in providing services under the Aspiundh Contract to avoid the materialisation of the Risks ("Aspiundh Duty*).
61. During the term of the Aspiundh Contract, and prior to the Mount Victoria fire, Aspiundh, by an employee:
- 61.1. conducted one or more inspections of the power line in the vicinity of the Tree:
- 61.2. performed clearance works on or near the Tree between 13 November 2012 and 9 January 2013,
62. By reason of the matters alleged in paragraphs 54 to 61 above, in exercising reasonable care, Aspiundh, its employees or agents, ought reasonably to have:

- 62.1. ensured that the persons engaged by it to conduct PSBI and Vegetation Management program tree inspections, and perform work under the Aspiundh Contract had Appropriate Training;
 - 62.2. identified the Tree as a Hazardous Tree;
 - 62.3. identified the Tree as a potential hazard;
 - 62.4. determined that the Tree was at risk of failure or shedding limbs;
 - 62.5. determined that the Tree was at risk of coming into contact with power lines;
 - 62.6. determined that the Tree had poor structure;
 - 62.7. trimmed or removed the Tree;
 - 62.8. in the alternative to 62.7. notified Endeavour of the matters set out at sub-paragraphs 62.2 to 62.6 above.
63. The persons engaged by Aspiundh to conduct tree inspections under the Aspiundh Contract did not have Appropriate Training.

G. PINNACLE'S DUTY OF CARE

- 64. At all material times. Pinnacle knew or ought reasonably to have known of the risks referred to in paragraphs 13.1 to 13.4 above.
- 65. At all material times;
 - 65.1. the Risks defined in paragraph 14 above were reasonably foreseeable to Pinnacle;
 - 65.2. Pinnacle knew or ought reasonably to have known of the Risks.
- 66. During the term of the Pinnacle Contract Pinnacle provided services to Endeavour Energy, including in respect of the power line referred to in sub-paragraph 7.2.2 above.
- 67. By reason of the matters set out in paragraphs 38 to 40 and 66 above, Pinnacle had a responsibility for and a degree of control over:
 - 67.1. the assessment of vegetation clearances surrounding parts of Endeavour Energy's distribution network, including the power line;
 - 67.2. the implementation and observance by its employees of the requirements of the Pinnacle Contract and of Endeavour Energy's policies and procedures.

including MMI 0013. during and for the purposes of assessing vegetation clearances:

- 67.3. the **knowledge**, training and experience of the employees it engaged to perform services under the Pinnacle **Contract**, including the assessment of vegetation within the Clearance Space and/or the Hazard **Space**,
68. During the term of the Pinnacle **Contract**, it was reasonably foreseeable that any failure by **Pinnacle**, its servants or **agents**, to observe and implement the requirements of the Pinnacle Contract and of Endeavour Energy's policies in respect of the assessment of vegetation clearances could result in the materialisation of the Risks alleged in paragraph 65 above.
69. Throughout the term of the Pinnacle **Contract**, the plaintiff and group members were:
- 69.1. vulnerable to the Risks **materialising**; and — . . .
- 69.2. for the purposes of protecting themselves and their property and their economic interests against the **Risks**, reliant on Pinnacle by its servants and agents exercising reasonable care in undertaking services under the Pinnacle **Contract**.
70. In the **premises**, throughout the term of the Pinnacle Contract, Pinnacle and its relevant employees owed to the plaintiff and group members a duty to take reasonable care and to ensure that reasonable care was taken by them:
- 70.1. in providing **services**, in **particular**, in conducting assessments of vegetation outside the Clearance Space that could fall within the Clearance Space and come into contact with power lines;
- 70.2. to ensure that the assessment of vegetation outside the Clearance Space was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Pinnacle Contract and of Endeavour Energy's policies and procedures including MMI 0013;
- 70.3. to ensure that persons engaged to conduct the assessments of vegetation outside the Clearance Space were competent to inspect for and identify Hazardous Trees;
- 70.4. **alternatively**, in providing services to scope and audit under the Pinnacle Contract to avoid the materialisation of the Risks ("**Pinnacle Duty**").

71. During the term of the Pinnacle Contract and prior to the Mount Victoria fire, Pinnacle, by an employee, conducted one or more inspections of the power line in the vicinity of the Tree.
72. By reason of the matters alleged in paragraphs 64 to 71 above, in exercising reasonable care, Endeavour Energy, its employees or agents, ought reasonably to have:
- 72.1. identified the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in paragraph 51; and
- 72.2. notified Endeavour Energy of the fact that the Tree was a Hazardous Tree.

H. BREACHES OF DUTY OF CARE BY ENDEAVOUR ENERGY

73. In the circumstances:
- 73.1. the probability that the harm referred to in sub-paragraphs 14.10 to 14.12 would occur if Endeavour Energy failed to take care was not insignificant;

Particulars

- (a) The plaintiff refers to and repeats the matters set out in paragraphs 13, 14 and 18 to 20;
 - (b) The risk that bushfires could be ignited by fallen conductors was identified by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission [VBRC Report, Ch 4];
 - (c) The VBRC found that contact between vegetation and power lines poses a considerable risk for causing fires and that trees outside regulated clearance spaces pose a risk of causing fires by contacting power lines when they break or fall [VBRC Report, Ch 4, [4.6.2]];
 - (d) Endeavour Energy knew of the findings of the VBRC and of the significant bushfire risk posed by Hazardous Trees. The plaintiff relies upon the Network Management Plan, 2011-2013, Ch 4, [1.1]-[1.3];
- 73.2. in the event that the Risks materialised, the harm was potentially catastrophic;
- 73.3. any burden on Endeavour Energy in taking precautions to avoid the Risks was slight and not unreasonable having regard to its available resources, the seriousness of the harm and the risk of the occurrence of the harm;

Particulars

- (a) There was no relevant financial constraint on Endeavour Energy taking the precautions set out in paragraph 75.1, below by reason that there is no additional cost incurred in correctly installing crimp(s) to join conductors;

- (b) There was no relevant financial constraint on Endeavour Energy taking the precautions set out in paragraphs 50.2 to 50.5 below above by reason that:
- (i) from about 1 January 2008, Endeavour Energy was subject to economic regulation by the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**);
 - (ii) the AER was required to make a Distribution Determination for distribution network service providers, including Endeavour Energy, for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2014 (**2009 Regulatory Control Period**);
 - (iii) Endeavour Energy submitted to the AER that its forecast direct operating and maintenance expenditure for the 2009 Regulatory Control Period was \$881 million, including \$198.1 million for vegetation management [Endeavour Energy Regulatory Proposal dated 2 June 2008 at p 140-1];
 - (iv) the AER Distribution Determination for Endeavour Energy for the 2009 Regulatory Control Period approved Endeavour **Energy's** forecast direct operating and maintenance expenditure;
 - (v) Endeavour **Energy's** actual expenditure on vegetation management during the 2009 Regulatory Control Period was **\$136.5m** less than its approved forecast vegetation management inspection expenditure [Endeavour Energy Regulatory Proposal 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019 at 74];
 - (vi) the cost of taking the precautions was significantly less than the budget available to Endeavour Energy for vegetation management during the 2009 Regulatory Control Period;
- (c) further particulars of the cost of the precautions may be provided prior to trial.

73.4. Hazardous Trees are of no, or alternatively, very limited social utility; and

73.5. the Tree was of no social utility.

74. In the premises set out in paragraphs 18 to 73 Inclusive above, as at 17 October 2013 Endeavour Energy had failed to:

74.1. correctly install one of the crimps in the southern conductor;

74.2. identify the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in the particulars to paragraph 51 §0; or

74.3. trim or remove the Tree.

75. A reasonable person in the position of Endeavour Energy would have taken the following precautions to avoid the materialisation of the Risks:

Engineering precautions

- 75.1. taken reasonable care when replacing or joining sections of conductor during construction, repair and/or maintenance of its overhead network to ensure:
- 75.1.1. crimps were correctly installed on aluminium conductors;
 - 75.1.2. damaged aluminium conductor was not placed within crimps; and/or
 - 75.1.3. dyes were correctly applied to crimps so as not to damage and weaken aluminium conductors;

Vegetation Management precautions

- 75.2. ensured that the persons who conducted the Vegetation Management Inspections and the PSBI Program on its behalf had Appropriate Training;
- 75.3. taken reasonable care to ensure that the contractors it engaged to conduct the Vegetation Management Inspections and the PSBI Program on its behalf discharged the obligation to inspect for and identify Hazardous Trees;
- 75.4. identified the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in the particulars to paragraph §0-51;
- 75.5. upon identifying the Tree as a Hazardous Tree trimmed or removed the Tree as soon as practicable and in any event by 1 October or the start of the fire season, whichever is the earlier.
76. Endeavour Energy failed:
- 76.1. to take reasonable care when replacing or joining sections of conductor during construction and/or maintenance of its overhead network to ensure:
 - 76.1.1. crimps were correctly installed on aluminium conductors;
 - 76.1.2. damaged aluminium conductor was not placed within crimps; and/or
 - 76.1.3. dyes were correctly applied to crimps so as not to damage and weaken aluminium conductors;

Particulars

The southern conductor was damaged and weakened in the course of installation of a crimp between poles 3 and 4. The date prior to the Mount Victoria fire when the crimp was installed is known to the first defendant but not to the plaintiff.

Further particulars shall be provided following discovery and receipt of expert evidence.

- 76.2. to ensure that the persons who conducted the Vegetation Management Inspections and the PSBI Program on its behalf had Appropriate Training;

Particulars

- (a) Endeavour Energy did **not** provide any training in the inspection and identification of Hazardous Trees to the persons whom it engaged or whom its contractors engaged to inspect vegetation in the course of the Vegetation Management inspections and/or PSBI Program;
- (b) Endeavour Energy did not require Aspiundh, ATS, Heli Aust, Pinnacle or Osborne to:
 - (i) engage qualified arborists; or
 - (ii) provide Appropriate Training to the persons whom they did engage

to inspect vegetation in the course of the Vegetation Management Inspections, and/or the PSBI Program;

- 76.3. to take reasonable care to ensure that the contractors it engaged to conduct the Vegetation Management Inspections and the PSBI Program on its behalf discharged the obligation to inspect for and identify Hazardous Trees;

Particulars

- (a) Endeavour Energy engaged Tree Management Officers ("**TMOs**") to supervise and audit the work performed by its contractors none of whom had the Appropriate Training;
- (b) Endeavour Energy knew that none of the individuals conducting the Vegetation Management Inspections and the PSBI Program inspections on its behalf and none of its TMOs responsible for supervising and auditing that work had the Appropriate Training or were otherwise competent to inspect for and identify Hazardous Trees;
- (c) TMOs were not required to supervise or audit the inspection for Hazardous Trees;
- (d) Endeavour Energy did not adequately direct its contractors to inspect for and identify Hazardous Trees, particularly Hazardous Trees outside the Clearance **Space**;
- (e) further particulars may be provided prior to trial.

- 76.4. to identify the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in the particulars to paragraph 40 **51**.

77. A vegetation inspection and assessment conducted with due **care, skill and diligence** by an assessor with Appropriate Training in the course of a PSBI or Vegetation Management Program tree inspection would have identified that the Tree:

77.1, was a potential hazard:

77.2. was a Hazardous Tree.

78. In the premises, as at 17 October 2013, by the failures identified in paragraph ~~50-76~~, Endeavour Energy had breached, and continued to be in breach of the Endeavour Duty:

Particulars

But for the breaches of duty:

- (a) the crimp in the southern conductor which failed upon the Tree falling on the Conductors would have been installed correctly;
- (b) the Tree would have been identified as a Hazardous Tree; and
- (c) the Tree would have been removed or trimmed in accordance with MMI 0013, such that the appropriate clearances were maintained between the Conductors and at the Tree near poles 3 and 4 on 17 October 2013.

79. The failure of Endeavour Energy to take the precautions in paragraph ~~75-75~~ were not acts or omissions involving the exercise of, or failure to exercise, a special statutory power within the meaning of s 43A of the *Civil Liability Act* 2002 (NSW).

80. Further, or alternatively, to the extent that the failure of Endeavour Energy to take any of the precautions in paragraph ~~74 75~~ were acts or omissions which involved the exercise of, or failure to exercise, a special statutory power, the acts or omissions were so unreasonable that no authority having the special statutory power could consider them to have been reasonable having regard to the matters set out in paragraph ~~73-73~~.

I. BREACHES BY ASPLUNDH

81. In the circumstances:

81.1. by reason of the matters set out in paragraphs 18. 19. 54 ~~64~~ and 55 §4. the probability that the harm referred to in sub-paragraphs 14.10 to 14.12 would occur if Asplundh failed to take care was not insignificant:

81.2. in the event that the Risks **materialised**, the harm was potentially catastrophic:

81.3. any burden to **Asplundh** in taking precautions to avoid the Risks was slight and not unreasonable having regard to the seriousness of the harm and the risk of its occurrence:

Particulars

So far as Aspiundh's inspections of trees along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road under the Aspiundh Contract are concerned, no additional burden would have arisen in undertaking them with due skill and care.

- 81.4. Hazardous Trees are of no, or alternatively, very limited social utility: and
- 81.5. the Tree was of no social utility.
82. A reasonable person in the position of Aspiundh would have taken the following precautions to avoid the materialisation of the Risks:
- 82.1. ensuring that the persons who it employed or engaged to undertake inspections of vegetation in proximity to Endeavour Energy's network assets pursuant to the Aspiundh Contract had Appropriate Training;

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon clause 4.5 and 4.8 of Annexure B to Supply Schedule 1523/12C of the Aspiundh Contract.

- 82.2. identifying the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in the particulars to paragraph 51:

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon clauses 7.2. and 7.3 of of Annexure B to Supply Schedule 1523/12C of the Aspiundh Contract: and Endeavour Energy policies WNV 1012. MMI-0001 and MMI-0013,

- 82.3. upon identifying the Tree as a Hazardous Tree, trimming or removing the Tree.

Particulars

Clauses 7.5.1 (e) of Annexure B to Supply Schedule 1523/12C of the Aspiundh Contract.

83. In breach of the Aspiundh Duty. Aspiundh failed to:
- 83.1. ensure that the persons who it employed or engaged to undertake inspections of vegetation in proximity to Endeavour Energy's network assets pursuant to the Aspiundh Contract had Appropriate Training:

- 83.2. identify the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in paragraph 51; and/or
- 83.3. trim or remove the Tree; or
- 83.4. alternatively, notify Endeavour Energy of the fact that the Tree was a Hazardous Tree.
84. In the premises, Aspiundh itself, or by its employees or agents, breached the duty of care alleged in paragraph 60 above.
85. By reason of the matters alleged in paragraphs 35 to 37, 54 to 63 and 81 to 84 above, the Mount Victoria fire was caused by the negligence of Aspiundh, its agents or employees.
86. By reason of the negligence of Aspiundh, its agents or employees:
- 86.1. the plaintiff;
- 86.2. each of the group members referred to in sub-paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 hereof; and
- 86.3. each of the deceased persons referred to in sub-paragraph 4.4 hereof as the case may be, suffered loss and damage of the kinds referred to in sub-paragraphs 14.10 to 14.12 above.
87. The Mount Victoria fire was a natural and foreseeable consequence of the negligence of the negligence of Aspiundh, its agents or employees.

J. BREACHES BY PINNACLE

88. In the circumstances:
- 88.1. by reason of the matters set out in paragraphs 18, 19, 64 and 65, the probability that the harm referred to in sub-paragraphs 14.10 to 14.12 would occur if Pinnacle failed to take care was not insignificant;
- 88.2. in the event that the Risks materialised, the harm was potentially catastrophic;
- 88.3. any burden to Pinnacle in taking precautions to avoid the Risks was slight and not unreasonable having regard to the seriousness of the harm and the risk of its occurrence;

Particulars

So far as Pinnacle's inspections of trees along the driveway to the premises at 80-92 Mount York Road under the Pinnacle Contract are concerned, no additional burden would have arisen in undertaking them with due skill and care.

- 88.4. Hazardous Trees are of no, or alternatively, very limited social utility; and
- 88.5. the Tree was of no social utility.
89. A reasonable person in the position of Pinnacle would have taken the following precautions to avoid the materialisation of the Risks:
- 89.1. ensuring that the persons who it employed or engaged to undertake inspections of vegetation in proximity to Endeavour Energy's network assets pursuant to the Pinnacle Contract had the Appropriate Training;

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon clause 4.5 and 4.8 of Annexure A to Services Agreement 1523/12C to the Pinnacle Contract of the Pinnacle Contract.

- 89.2. identifying the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in the particulars to paragraph 51;

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon clause 7.2 of Annexure A to Services Agreement 1523/12C of the Pinnacle Contract and Endeavour Energy policies WNV 1012, MMI-0001 and MMI-0013.

- 89.3. upon identifying the Tree as a Hazardous Tree notifying Endeavour Energy that the Tree was a Hazardous Tree.

Particulars

The plaintiff relies upon clause 7.2.1(b) of Annexure A to Services Agreement 1523/12C of the Pinnacle Contract

90. In breach of the Pinnacle Duty, Pinnacle failed to:
- 90.1. ensure that the persons who it employed or engaged to undertake inspections of vegetation in proximity to Endeavour Energy's network assets pursuant to the Pinnacle Contract had Appropriate Training;
- 90.2. identify the Tree as a Hazardous Tree by virtue of the defects and hazards associated with the Tree identified in paragraph 50; and
- 90.3. notify Endeavour Energy of the fact that the Tree was a Hazardous Tree.

K. BREACHES OF DUTY CAUSED MOUNT VICTORIA FIRE

91. At approximately 12.15pm on 17 October 2013 at Mount York Road, Mount Victoria:

91.1. vegetation in and adjacent to Mount York Road was dry;

91.2. there was low humidity in local atmospheric conditions;

91.3. there was a very high ambient temperature;

91.4. there were strong winds blowing.

92. **Each of the:**

92.1. dry vegetation;

92.2. low humidity;

92.3. ambient temperature;

92.4. wind speed and direction;

on 17 October 2013 were within the range of foreseeable operating conditions for the power line.

93. At approximately 12.15pm on 17 October 2013:

93.1. the Tree fell onto the Conductors between poles 3 and 4 on the power line;

Particulars

The lower branch from the primary crotch failed at approximately 2.1m above ground level. The failure occurred on the underside of the stem with the resultant wound being approximately 4m long and finishing approximately 3.6m above ground level.

93.2. as a result of the Tree falling onto the Conductors:

93.2.1. the southern conductor separated within a crimp located to the west of the mid-point between poles 3 and 4;

93.2.2. the other (northern) conductor did not break but detached from pole 3 at the pin insulator;

93.2.3. the failed southern conductor:

93.2.3.1. fell to the ground;

93.2.3.2. each end of it recoiled back towards its respective point of attachment on pole 3 and pole 4, and

- 93.2.3.3. was in contact with the ground and/or vegetable matter on the ground adjacent to the driveway to 80-92 Mount York Road;
- 93.2.4. there was a discharge of electricity from the collapsed southern conductor;
- 93.2.5. the electricity discharged from the southern conductor ignited vegetable matter on the ground between poles 3 and 4;
- 93.3. the electricity ignited vegetation thereby started a fire which subsequently spread over a wide geographic area being the Mount Victoria fire.
94. If the precautions referred to in paragraph ~~75~~ 74 had been undertaken by Endeavour Energy, the Mount Victoria fire would not have occurred because:
- 94.1. had Endeavour Energy taken the precautions in paragraph 74.1 ~~75.1~~, the southern conductor would not have failed when the Tree fell onto the Conductors with the result that the Mount Victoria fire could not have occurred;
- 94.2. had Endeavour Energy taken the precautions in paragraph ~~74.2~~ 75.2 or ~~74.3~~ 75.3, the Tree would have been identified as a Hazardous Tree either directly by Endeavour Energy or by its agents Aspiundh, Pinnacle, Heli-Aust and/or Osborne during inspections of the Tree by no later than about August 2013;
- 94.3. had the Tree been identified as a Hazardous Tree, Endeavour Energy would have taken the precaution in paragraph 75.5 ~~75.5~~ with the result that, by no later than 1 October 2013, the Tree would have been removed or trimmed to the height of the lowest conductor with the result that the Mount Victoria fire could not have occurred.
95. In the premises the Mount Victoria fire was caused by Endeavour Energy's breaches of the Endeavour Duty.
96. If the precautions referred to in paragraph 82 had been undertaken by Aspiundh, the Mount Victoria fire would not have occurred because:
- 96.1. had Aspiundh taken the precautions in paragraph 82.1, the Tree would have been identified as a Hazardous Tree by no later than about August 2013;
- 96.2. had the Tree been identified as a Hazardous Tree, Aspiundh would have taken the precaution in paragraph 82.3 with the result that, by no later than 1,

October 2013. the Tree would have been removed or trimmed to the height of the lowest conductor with the result that the Mount Victoria fire could not have occurred.

97. In the premises the Mount Victoria fire was caused by Asplundh's breaches of the Asplundh Duty.
98. If the precautions referred to in paragraph 89 had been undertaken by Pinnacle, the Mount Victoria fire would not have occurred because:
- 98.1. had Pinnacle taken the precautions in paragraph 89.1. the Tree would have been identified as a Hazardous Tree by no later than about August 2013;
- 98.2. had the Tree been identified as a Hazardous Tree. Pinnacle would have taken the precaution in paragraph 89.3 with the result that, by no later than 1 October 2013, the Tree would have been removed or trimmed to the height of the lowest conductor with the result that the Mount Victoria fire could not have occurred.
99. In the premises the Mount Victoria fire was caused by Pinnacle's breaches of the Pinnacle Duty.
100. The Mount Victoria fire was a natural and foreseeable consequence of the breaches of duty alleged in this proceeding.

L SUB GROUP CLAIM - PRIVATE NUISANCE

101. Further to paragraph 4 above, the plaintiff brings this proceeding on behalf of those group members ("**sub group members**") who suffered loss of or damage to property, further or alternatively economic loss, in connection with the Mount Victoria fire's interference in their use and enjoyment of interests in land.
102. At all material times each of:
- 102.1. the risks referred to in paragraph 14 above; and
- 102.2. the risks that a **fire** ignited by a discharge of electricity from the power line would unreasonably interfere with the use or enjoyment of interests in land:
- 102.2.1. over which the fire passed; further or alternatively
- 102.2.2. that was affected by physical consequences of the fire or by emergency responses to the fire;

102.2.3. by the persons entitled to the said use or enjoyment;

were reasonably foreseeable to Endeavour Energy.

103. By transmitting electric current along the power line, alternatively doing so at a time, being the afternoon of 17 October 2013, when the power line was not safe or operating safely, Endeavour Energy created the risk referred to in the preceding paragraph.
104. Endeavour Energy by the conduct alleged in the preceding paragraph in fact caused a fire beside Mount York Road being the Mount Victoria **fire**, which fire spread to land including land in which the plaintiff and sub group members had interests ("**sub group lands**").
105. The Mount Victoria fire unreasonably interfered with the plaintiffs and sub group **members'** use and enjoyment of their interests in sub group lands.
106. In the premises the plaintiff and sub group members suffered a nuisance created by Endeavour Energy ("**nuisance**").

M. CAUSATION AND LOSS AND DAMAGE

107. By reason of:

107.1. the breaches by Endeavour Energy of the Endeavour Duty; further or alternatively

107.2. the breaches by Aspiundh of the Aspiundh Duty; further or alternatively

107.3. the breaches by Pinnacle of the Pinnacle Duty; further or alternatively

107.4. the nuisance;

alleged herein, the plaintiff and each of the group members or sub group members as the case may be suffered loss and damage of the kinds referred to in sub-paragraphs 14.10 to 14.12 (inclusive) above.

Particulars of loss and damage of the plaintiff

The plaintiff has lost upon the property his home, its contents, shed and contents thereof, fencing, garden and vehicles. The plaintiff further has suffered inconvenience.

Further particulars of the plaintiffs loss and damage will be provided prior to trial.

Particulars relating to individual group members will be provided following the trial of common questions.

N. COMMON QUESTIONS OF LAW OR FACT

108. The questions of law or fact common to the claims of the plaintiff and each of the group members or sub group members are:
- 108.1. how the Mount Victoria **fire** started;
 - 108.2. whether the Endeavour Duty was owed by Endeavour Energy to the plaintiff and group members and if so the content of the duty;
 - 108.3. whether the Endeavour Duty was **non-delegable**;
 - 108.4. if the Endeavour Duty was delegable, whether the duty was discharged by Endeavour Energy engaging contractors to undertake vegetation inspections on its behalf;
 - 108.5. whether the Aspiundh Duty was owed by **Asplundh** to the plaintiff and group members and if so the content of the duty;
 - 108.6. whether the Pinnacle Duty was owed by Pinnacle to the plaintiff and group members and if so the content of the duty;
 - 108.7. whether Endeavour Energy breached the Endeavour Duty;
 - 108.8. whether Aspiundh breached the Aspiundh Duty;
 - 108.9. whether Pinnacle breached the Pinnacle Duty;
 - 108.10. whether the Mount Victoria fire was caused by a breach by:
 - 108.10.1. Endeavour Energy of the Endeavour Duty;
 - 108.10.2. Aspiundh of the Aspiundh **Duty**;
 - 108.10.3. Pinnacle of the Pinnacle **Duty**;
 - 108.11. whether the plaintiff and sub group members suffered actual nuisance created by Endeavour Energy;
 - 108.12. what are the principles for identifying and measuring compensable losses suffered by the plaintiff and each of the group members resulting from the breaches of duty or negligence alleged herein.

SIGNATURE OF LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

I certify under section 347 of the Legal Profession Act 2004 that there are reasonable grounds for believing on the basis of provable facts and a reasonably arguable view of the law that the claim for damages in these proceedings has reasonable prospects of success.

I have advised the plaintiff that court fees may be payable during these proceedings. These fees may include a hearing allocation fee.

Signature

Capacity

Date of signature

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

If you do not file a defence within 28 days of being served with this statement of claim:

- **You will be in default in these proceedings.**
- **The court may enter judgment against you without any further notice to you.**

The judgment may be for the relief claimed in the statement of claim and for the plaintiffs costs of bringing these proceedings. The court may provide third parties with details of any default judgment entered against you.

HOW TO RESPOND

Please read this statement of claim very carefully. If you have any trouble understanding it or require assistance on how to respond to the claim you should get legal advice as soon as possible.

You can get further information about what you need to do to respond to the claim from:

- A legal practitioner.
- LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529 or at www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au.
- The court registry for limited procedural information.

You can respond in one of the following ways:

- 1 If you intend to dispute the claim or part of the claim, by filing a defence and/or making a cross-claim.**
- 2 If money is claimed, and you believe you owe the money claimed, by:**

- Paying the plaintiff all of the money and interest claimed. If you **file** a notice of payment under UCPR 6.17 further proceedings against you will be stayed unless the court otherwise orders.
- Filing an acknowledgement of the claim.
- Applying to the court for further time to pay the claim.

3 If money is claimed, and you believe you owe part of the money claimed, by:

- Paying the plaintiff that part of the money that is claimed.
- Filing a defence in relation to the part that you do not believe is owed.

Court forms are available on the UCPR website at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/ucpr or at any NSW court **registry**.

REGISTRY ADDRESS

Street address	Supreme Court of New South Wales Law Courts Building, Queens Square 184 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Postal address	Supreme Court of New South Wales GPO Box 3 Sydney NSW 2001 Australia DX: 829 Sydney
Telephone	(02) 9230 8111

AFFIDAVIT VERIFYING

Name Brendan Francis Pendergast
 Address **219** Koroit Street, **Warrnambool**, Victoria 3280
 Occupation Principal
 Date

I, Brendan Francis Pendergast of **219** Koroit Street, Warrnambool, Victoria, Solicitor, make oath and say as follows:

- 1 I am a Principal of Maddens Lawyers of **219** Koroit Street, Warrnambool and have the carriage of this matter for and on behalf of the Plaintiff.
- 2 The plaintiff is the sole proprietor of property at 1-3 St Georges Parade, Mount Victoria, NSW 2786, which was destroyed in the Mount Victoria fire described in the Statement of Claim ("**the fire**").
- 3 The **Plaintiff's** knowledge of the allegations of fact in the pleading are limited by reason of the representative nature of these proceedings and accordingly I have been authorised to make this Affidavit on behalf of the plaintiff.
- 4 I have undertaken extensive investigations in to the cause and circumstances of the fire including attending at the fire seat, conferring with witnesses and reviewing documentation obtained through the New South Wales Coroner and pursuant to the Government Information (Public Access) Act and other relevant documentation that is available to me.
- 5 I have received instructions from in excess of seven or more owners of property damaged in the fire, including the plaintiff, to pursue a claim against Endeavour Energy, Aspiundh and Pinnacle seeking compensation and damages for loss and damage suffered as a result of the fire.
- 6 As to any allegations of fact pleaded in the Amended Statement of Claim, I believe that the allegations are true.



SWORN at Warrnambool,
Victoria

Signature of deponent



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Signature of witness



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Emery', written over a horizontal line.

Name of witness

Address of witness

Capacity of witness

KATHRYN AMY EMERY
of Maddens Lawyers 219 Koroit Street
Warrnambool An Australian legal practitioner
within the meaning of the Legal Profession
Uniform Law (Victoria)

