



Australian Government



Critical
Infrastructure
Centre

Coverage of the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*

The *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (the Act) contains a range of powers, functions and obligations that only apply in relation to specific critical infrastructure assets in the electricity, gas, water and ports sectors.

What is critical infrastructure?

The Australian Government defines critical infrastructure as:

‘those physical facilities, supply chains, information technologies and communication networks which, if destroyed, degraded or rendered unavailable for an extended period, would significantly impact the social or economic wellbeing of the nation or affect Australia’s ability to conduct national defence and ensure national security’.

For the purpose of the Act, critical infrastructure refers to:

- critical electricity assets
- critical gas assets
- critical ports
- critical water assets
- assets declared under clause 51 to be critical infrastructure assets, or
- assets prescribed by the rules of the Act.

What is a critical electricity asset?

Critical electricity assets include certain electricity generation assets, and systems, networks and interconnectors involved in the transmission and distribution of electricity.

Generation

Only electricity generation stations that are most critical to ensuring the security and reliability of the system or network in a state or territory are captured by the Act. The Act applies to electricity generation stations if they meet one or both of the following two criteria set out in the rules to the Act:

- 1 Synchronous electricity generation stations (which includes all the generating units in the station) that generate electricity above the jurisdictional megawatt (MW) thresholds:
 - New South Wales – 1400MW
 - Victoria – 1200MW
 - Queensland – 1300MW
 - Western Australia – 600MW
 - South Australia – 600MW
 - Tasmania – 700MW
 - Northern Territory – 300MW
- 2 Electricity generation stations that are contracted to provide a system restart service.

Transmission

The Act applies to those electricity transmission assets that are critical for transporting power from generators to distributors, and to other state transmission networks via interconnectors. The Act applies to those electricity transmission networks (including electricity interconnectors) that ultimately service at least 100,000 customers.

Distribution

The Act applies to those electricity distributors that are critical for transforming the high voltage electricity from the transmission network, to lower voltages and supplying it to their assigned regional service areas and end-users. The Act applies to those electricity distribution systems or networks that ultimately service at least 100,000 customers.

What is a critical gas asset?

For the purpose of the Act a critical gas asset ensures the security and availability of gas to the domestic, Eastern, Western and Northern markets, and/or those that meet Australia's export demands. Specifically, a critical asset or facility is involved in the processing, storage, distribution and/or transmission of gas.

The Act specifically applies to:

- 1 processing facilities with a capacity of at least 300 terajoules per day
- 2 storage facilities with a maximum daily quantity of at least 75 terajoules per day
- 3 distribution networks or systems ultimately servicing 100,000 customers, and
- 4 transmission assets that meet the thresholds set out in the rules to the Act:
 - Eastern market – 200 terajoules per day
 - Northern market – 80 terajoules per day
 - Western market – 150 terajoules per day
 - Tasmanian Gas Pipeline.

What is a critical port?

The Act applies to the land that forms any part of the following critical ports.

Broome Port	Port of Gladstone
Port Adelaide	Port of Hay Point
Port of Brisbane	Port of Hobart
Port of Cairns	Port of Melbourne
Port of Christmas Island	Port of Newcastle
Port of Dampier	Port of Port Botany
Port of Darwin	Port of Port Hedland
Port of Eden	Port of Rockhampton
Port of Fremantle	Port of Sydney Harbour
Port of Geelong	Port of Townsville

The boundary of a critical port is the boundary of a security regulated port under the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*.

What is a critical water asset?

A critical water asset is one or more systems or networks managed by a water utility where those systems or networks ultimately service more than 100,000 connections. This captures those critical water utilities, which if disrupted, would significantly impact the operations of large population hubs, economic interests and Australian Government operations.

I am unsure whether I am an owner or operator of a critical infrastructure asset. What should I do?

If you are unsure whether you are an owner or operator of a critical infrastructure asset, or would like more information, please contact the Centre on +61 2 6141 3338 or email enquiries@ccentre.gov.au.