Hydro Tasmania

SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENT ALERT

Mackintosh emergency shutdown trip

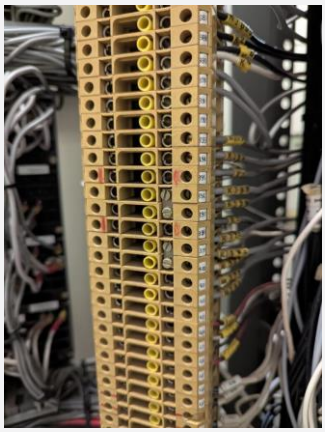
Alert Number (YYMMDD)	250806	Date Issued	6 August 2025
SAP Incident Number	75039	Approved By	Head of WHS
Alert Category	Safety	Action Required?	No

Alert details/incident summary

On 8 July the Mackintosh Power Station generator experienced an emergency shutdown trip triggered by suspected vibration. This type of trip sequence requires the intake gate to close to limit water ingress, but in this instance, it failed to operate.

At the time, a worker was on site relabelling accelerometers and investigating a disconnected cable in a panel. As this panel receives sensor data, the work was initially considered a possible cause of the trip. However, further technical investigations are underway to determine if other causal factors exist.

Alert/incident photos



Immediate actions taken

After the trip, operators found that two electrical terminal links in panel M8 - a separate cabinet from where the accelerometer work was being done - had been left open following Mechanical Protection & Control (MPC)testing in April 2025. Steps were taken to restore these connections, allowing the intake gate to function correctly.

The incident was reported, and the ICAM team began an investigation to confirm the cause and identify any corrective actions.

Investigation findings and actions

The investigation found that the MPC procedure was not followed in reverse sequence, in its entirety, resulting in missed steps to restore critical electrical terminal links. The procedure does not currently support returning the machine to service midway through testing, so it relies on the person performing the work to apply a diligent and systematic approach.
Recommendations include:
- Conducting further technical investigations to determine the exact cause of the trip
- Review MPC procedure design to improve early return to service outcomes and ensure they meet the intent of Section 11.10.3 of the Isolation Procedure; and
- Strengthening document control and review processes for test procedures.