EDGE5 / OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK SERIES / 04

OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY REVIEW

Executive Post-Handover Operational Assessment

EDGE5 INDEPENDENT DESIGN AUTHORITY

PURPOSE

Most systems are assessed during delivery. Few are assessed for long-term operational continuity after external support declines.

Many systems appear successful during:

- active funding
- active supervision
- contractor involvement
- reporting periods

The true test occurs after operational responsibility transfers to local systems, communities, or institutions.

This review is designed to help organisations identify:

- hidden dependency risks
- operational fragility
- post-handover vulnerabilities
- governance gaps
- continuity risks

The review does not assess project activity, funding volume, infrastructure quantity, or reporting performance. It assesses whether systems are likely to continue functioning under real operating conditions after support withdrawal.

CORE REVIEW QUESTION

If external funding, supervision, or contractor support reduced tomorrow — what would still function in 12 months?

HOW TO USE THIS REVIEW

Review each section honestly using current operating conditions — not ideal assumptions.

Mark: YES / PARTIAL / NO

This review is intended as a strategic operational reflection tool, not a compliance checklist.

01 WATER CONTINUITY

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	YES	PARTIAL	NO
Can systems function during the worst reliable dry period?	☐	☐	☐
Is water access locally manageable without external delivery?	☐	☐	☐
Are water systems maintainable using local skills and resources?	☐	☐	☐
Does the system reduce runoff and evaporation over time?	☐	☐	☐

02 OPERATIONAL LABOUR REALITY

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	YES	PARTIAL	NO
Can systems realistically operate with available local labour?	☐	☐	☐
Are maintenance demands manageable long-term?	☐	☐	☐
Can systems continue during periods of stress or reduced staffing?	☐	☐	☐

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	YES	PARTIAL	NO
Are distances, logistics, and maintenance requirements practical?	☐	☐	☐

03 LOCAL OPERATIONAL CONTROL

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	YES	PARTIAL	NO
Can local people modify systems without outside approval?	☐	☐	☐
Is operational knowledge distributed locally?	☐	☐	☐
Can systems continue without project staff or contractors present?	☐	☐	☐
Are responsibilities clearly understood locally?	☐	☐	☐

04 LONG-TERM CONTINUITY

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	YES	PARTIAL	NO
Can systems continue without ongoing external funding?	☐	☐	☐
Are replacement materials and repair systems locally available?	☐	☐	☐
Can systems adapt to changing conditions over time?	☐	☐	☐
Is long-term participation likely after project withdrawal?	☐	☐	☐

05 OPERATING LIMITS

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	YES	PARTIAL	NO
Has the system been designed for worst reliable conditions rather than ideal conditions?	☐	☐	☐

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	YES	PARTIAL	NO
Are water, labour, and maintenance limits realistically understood?	☐	☐	☐
Can systems continue functioning during seasonal stress periods?	☐	☐	☐
Does implementation remain realistic after external support declines?	☐	☐	☐

06 POST-HANDOVER WARNING INDICATORS

If several of the following conditions are present, operational continuity may be vulnerable.

- ☐ High dependence on external technical support
- ☐ Water reliability declines seasonally
- ☐ Maintenance requirements increasing over time
- ☐ Operational knowledge concentrated in a few individuals
- ☐ Local adaptation not occurring independently
- ☐ Systems difficult to repair locally
- ☐ Labour demands exceed realistic local capacity
- ☐ Participation declines after active support reduces
- ☐ Governance responsibilities unclear
- ☐ Infrastructure functioning but operational ownership weak

STRATEGIC REFLECTION

> What system component is most vulnerable after support withdrawal?

> What currently depends on external supervision or funding?

> What would most likely fail first during operational stress?

IMPORTANT

Projects often remain operational during active funding, active supervision, contractor involvement, and reporting periods.

The critical test comes after support reduces.

> **EDGE5 PRINCIPLE**
>
> **A system is not complete until it can function without ongoing external support.**

WHEN TO SEEK A FULL EDGE5 OPERATIONAL REVIEW

A deeper operational review may be appropriate where:

- multiple warning indicators are present
- long-term continuity is uncertain
- systems rely heavily on external management
- operational sovereignty remains weak
- post-handover risk exposure is unclear

> Delivery is activity. Continuity is the real test of design.

EDGE5 INDEPENDENT DESIGN AUTHORITY

Operational viability systems for mining, oil & gas, CSR, humanitarian and development, landscape rehabilitation, livelihood continuity and post-handover operational viability.

edge5.com.au