

Media Release



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Eye in the sky keeps network in top condition

Essential Energy will capture a detailed picture of the condition of its electricity network when aerial inspections of powerlines and electrical infrastructure occur across its footprint in coming months.

From this week, a fixed wing plane will be used to identify damaged or deteriorating network assets and potential vegetation encroachments in towns across regional and rural NSW.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said the aerial patrols were part of Essential Energy's Bushfire Risk Management Plan and the data captured would help ensure the safety and reliability of the network.

"The program will inspect the pole top condition of 11,000 power poles across 15,000 kilometres of our network," David said.

"Aerial patrols are an efficient and effective way to view our network assets, without encroaching on or inconveniencing property owners and customers.

"Having an 'eye in the sky' gives us the ability to assess if vegetation is encroaching on powerlines or whether pole top hardware is damaged or ageing."

Property owners with sensitive animals should contact Essential Energy on **13 23 91** to organise a call advising of the fly over so that alternative arrangements can be made prior to the aerial inspections.

If an issue is identified during inspections, Essential Energy will contact affected landholders and organise crews to attend and undertake any necessary repairs.

Follow Essential Energy on Facebook and Twitter for updates on aerial patrols or visit: essentialenergy.com.au/aerial for further information.

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Essential Energy is the operator of Australia's largest electricity network spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales' land mass. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.