

Media Release



15 December 2017

Lines can hang low and sway to and fro!

With extreme temperatures on the radar this summer, Essential Energy is reminding the public to stay alert when working near the electricity network as heat can alter the height of overhead powerlines.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said while powerlines were designed for the climatic conditions, weather extremes could have an impact and he urged people to look up and live.

“Machinery operators, construction workers and tradespeople should be aware that prolonged heat can cause powerlines to sag and reduce line clearance heights from the ground,” David said.

Essential Energy recommends keeping a three metre clearance between powerlines and machinery when working near the electricity network and monitoring throughout the day for changes in conditions.

“In regional NSW many powerlines are strung across long spans and these can be more susceptible to sway in high winds,” David added.

“If overhead powerlines appear to be damaged, sagging or have fallen to the ground, keep eight metres clear and contact Essential Energy immediately on 13 20 80.

“Remember that electricity can arc to nearby objects and keep your distance from anything that may be in contact with the powerline, such as fences or trees, as they can serve as conductors.”

Essential Energy crews regularly inspect the electricity network to ensure it is in sound working order and powerline safety clearances are maintained.

For further electrical safety information, visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety or call 13 23 91.

**Media contact: Simone Plews, Corporate Media Manager
02 6588 6733 or 0457 514 993**

Essential Energy is the operator of one of Australia’s largest electricity networks 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.