

Media Release



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Reduce the risks on land and in the air

Essential Energy is encouraging pilots and property owners to share the responsibility for aerial safety near powerlines, with a new campaign suggesting 'don't wing it with powerlines'.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said while pilots should always be aware of the location of the electricity network, landholders could also play a part in keeping those in the air safe.

"The risk to pilots can be reduced by increasing the visibility of powerlines and other electrical infrastructure on properties and private land. A Powerline Hazard Assessment for the Farm conducted by landholders in consultation with aerial operators can be quite useful to identify electrical infrastructure that may potentially be difficult to see from the air," David said.

"Essential Energy can install powerline markers for a cost in areas where low-level flying operations occur, at temporary landing strips or air bases for firefighting operations, and construction sites."

Customers wishing to order or enquire about powerline markers can complete the online form available at www.essentialenergy.com.au/overhead.

"These markers not only assist those in the air but can also improve powerline visibility for those transporting high loads or operating farm machinery and equipment on the ground."

Aerial spraying, firefighting and mustering, as well as recreational pursuits like paragliding, hot air ballooning and the use of drones, can all be high-risk around overhead powerlines.

"While pilots are urged to pre-plan their flights and identify the location of the overhead electricity network before taking off, changes in the landscape and weather conditions can affect the visibility of powerlines," David said.

"Safety is the responsibility of everyone; let's reduce the risks of 'wire strike' on the ground and in the air."

The Essential Energy Public Safety team can offer safety awareness sessions for low altitude flying and pilots can also request maps of Essential Energy's overhead electricity network in their region by visiting www.essentialenergy.com.au/overhead.

To report an incident involving an overhead powerline, call Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80** or Triple-0 (**000**) if the situation is life threatening.

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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.