

Media Release



28 August 2017

Dial before you dig to avoid damage or injury

Essential Energy is reminding tradespeople and contractors to contact the Dial Before You Dig national referral service before excavating after recent incidents of machinery contacting underground electrical cables.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said it was a statutory requirement under the Electricity Supply Act to contact the free Dial Before You Dig service before excavating.

“Those excavating around network infrastructure need to understand the seriousness of the risks involved – cable strike can result in serious injuries, or even death,” David said.

“We urge workers to confirm the location of underground networks such as electricity, gas, telecommunications and water to help protect the safety of workers and the public.

“Preventing damage to this infrastructure will reduce the need for costly repairs and the potential impact of service outages on local communities.”

This month, Essential Energy has received reports of several incidents of machinery damaging underground electrical and streetlight cables in Temora, Leeton, Townsend, Weemalah, Tamworth and Batemans Bay.

“There are heavy financial penalties for those found responsible for negligent behaviour when excavating,” David added.

Dial Before You Dig is Australia’s free national referral service for information on underground cables and pipes and can be contacted by calling 1100 or online at: www.1100.com.au.

For more information on working near the underground and overhead electricity network, visit www.essentialenergy.com.au 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.