

# Media Release



8 August 2016

## Stay power safe in the garden this winter

As gardeners begin sharpening their secateurs in the lead up to spring, Essential Energy is reminding green thumbs to stay safe around electricity when working in the garden.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said the winter months were a popular time to tidy up the garden ahead of spring planting but advised caution around powerlines and other electrical assets.

“Never attempt to prune vegetation growing close to powerlines or if there is a risk of a cut branch falling onto the wires,” David said.

“Avoid carrying ladders or using long handled garden tools near powerlines as electricity can arc and jump across open space.”

Vegetation can obscure powerlines, so residents are asked to call Essential Energy if branches encroach within three metres.

If you do contact powerlines, call Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80**, stay at least eight metres clear of fallen or damaged lines and anything touching them, and always treat them as ‘live’.

“If you are planning a garden project, consider the estimated mature height of bushes or trees being planted and their location in relation to the electricity network,” David said.

Visit [www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety](http://www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety) to download a copy of Essential Energy’s *Plan before you plant* guide which outlines appropriate species for different locations.

Essential Energy recommends contacting the *Dial Before You Dig* hotline on 1100 to identify the location of underground cables on your property before digging up garden beds.

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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.