

Media Release



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Keep your distance from power this sugar cane harvest

As sugar cane is prepared to be cut, crushed and carted in northern NSW, Essential Energy is urging operators of harvest machinery to keep a safe distance from powerlines and other electrical infrastructure.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, recommends completing a hazard assessment for each work site, including paddocks, sidings, travel routes and relevant machinery, to reduce the risk of electrical incidents.

“Assign a competent safety observer to each work team to guide machinery movements near overhead powerlines and conduct regular meetings with workers to warn of potential electrical safety hazards,” David said.

Essential Energy recommends careful monitoring of weather conditions throughout the day as powerlines can sway in wind, sag in the heat and be difficult to see at dawn and dusk.

“Ensure operators know the height and reach of their machinery in both the stowed and working positions, and understand the required clearances between machinery and powerlines,” David said.

“Plan to start work at each new site during daylight hours so that all hazards can be observed and, where appropriate, provide ground level signage and barriers around powerlines. It’s also advised to tip cane well clear of powerlines.”

Free maps of Essential Energy’s overhead electricity network can be requested online at: essentialenergy.com.au/overhead. For more agricultural electrical safety information, visit essentialenergy.com.au/agribusiness.



Caption: Farmers and workers are reminded to stay a safe distance from powerlines and electrical infrastructure on farms during sugar cane harvest.

**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.