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Future measures to reduce biosecurity risks

Essential Energy is working to minimise biosecurity risks when property access is required to maintain the electricity network, following the introduction of new legislation.

The NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* replaces 14 outdated Acts with a new modern framework that identifies biosecurity as a shared responsibility between the public, industry and government.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said Essential Energy regularly reviewed its operational procedures for minimising biosecurity risks in line with any relevant legislative changes.

“Essential Energy recognises the importance of conserving Australia’s unique biodiversity while delivering a safe, reliable and affordable electricity network,” David said.

“We work closely with many different industries across regional, rural and remote NSW to ensure our daily operations don’t adversely impact the environmental footprint.”

Earlier this month, more than 30 Essential Energy employees from across NSW met with NSW Department of Primary Industries’ representatives in Port Macquarie to discuss the biosecurity legislation changes.

The workshop covered potential avenues in managing biosecurity impacts; discussions around pests and diseases within each region and in different local areas; types and locations of weeds; and practical advice for accessing properties with biosecurity warnings.

“Essential Energy values our partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries in planning for the management of biosecurity risks and potential impacts on our operations,” David said.

“Our *Health, Safety and Environment Manual: Flora and Fauna* outlines procedures for managing biodiversity risks to ensure that Essential Energy’s operations are implemented and completed in an environmentally responsible manner, minimising impacts on plants and animals.

“It is reassuring to know that our biosecurity measures will deliver reasonable, practical outcomes that consider industry needs in line with our responsibility to deliver a safe and reliable electricity network.”

Outcomes from the workshop will be further developed with the assistance of the NSW Department of Primary Industries and implemented, where appropriate.

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Media Release



Suggested caption: *Essential Energy employees from across NSW met recently with NSW Department of Primary Industries' representatives in Port Macquarie to discuss biosecurity legislation changes.*

(left-right:) Brett Hayward (Essential Energy), Scott Charlton (DPI), Joel McCauley (Essential Energy), Scott Barrett (DPI) and Nathan Burley (Essential Energy).

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 employs approximately 3,850 people and also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.