

# Media Release



25 May 2017

## Reduce hazards with prudent pruning and planting

The cooler months are an ideal time to prune and plant but Essential Energy is reminding homeowners to think carefully about the distance of vegetation from electrical assets before pulling on the gardening gloves.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said the mature height of trees and bushes should be considered when planting on your property.

“All trees should be planted at least 15 metres, or a distance equal to their fully-grown height, away from powerlines and poles,” David said.

“Avoid planting trees, shrubs or bushes around substation transformers as this can hinder access or affect underground equipment through root entanglement or damage.

“If there is a risk debris could fall across powerlines or if vegetation is less than three metres away from poles or wires, don’t attempt pruning and lopping – contact Essential Energy on 13 20 80 to arrange an inspection.”

Essential Energy advises green thumbs that electricity can jump or arc across an open space and trees will conduct electricity through them.

“When using ladders and pruning equipment around the yard, keep well clear of overhead powerlines,” David said.

“It takes less than a second for electricity to pass from a powerline through an object to a person, so never attempt to remove a tree or branch in contact with them.”

If you come across a fallen powerline, stay at least eight metres away from it or fences or trees that it may be in contact with, and immediately contact Essential Energy on **13 20 80**.

For more information about safe planting and pruning around the electricity network, visit [www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety](http://www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety).

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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.