

Media Release



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Sow the network safety seed this season

Farmers and machinery operators are reminded to consider electricity network safety on their property when undertaking sowing activities this season.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said Essential Energy was trying to avoid a repeat of last year's spike in state-wide incidents involving tractors and cotton module makers contacting the network.

"The safety of our farmers, their workers and our electricity network are our top priority," he said.

"We are spreading the message prior to the start of seasonal tasks such as sowing and harvesting in the hope that improved planning of activities may reduce the risks to agricultural workers."

"Mapping out safe traffic paths and appointing an onsite safety observer to monitor machinery movements around powerlines and poles can help avoid costly network incidents, unnecessary power outages and damage to electrical infrastructure," he said.

If machinery does contact overhead powerlines, operators are advised to stay in the cabin of their vehicle and contact Essential Energy immediately on 13 20 80.

"Bystanders should always remain at least eight metres away and treat powerlines as if they are 'live'," he said.

Property owners can also access maps of Essential Energy's overhead electricity network by calling 13 23 91 or visiting essentialenergy.com.au/overhead.

For further electrical safety information, visit essentialenergy.com.au/agribusiness.



Keep clear of the electricity network when sowing crops this season.

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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.