

Media Release



30 August 2017

Schools to celebrate Electricity Safety Week

Students from 895 primary schools across regional and rural NSW will learn valuable life lessons about electricity safety as part of Essential Energy's Electricity Safety Week 2017 program.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said 97 per cent of the schools in Essential Energy's vast footprint had registered to participate in the electrical safety awareness program from 4 to 8 September.

"We've had an overwhelming response from schools to participate in this year's Electricity Safety Week activities which teach students how to stay safe around electricity and raise awareness of potential hazards," David said.

Registered schools receive a free resource kit from Essential Energy with interactive resources and prizes to reinforce key electrical safety messages.

"Students learn to stay at least eight metres away from fallen powerlines, keep away from overhead powerlines and never play on electrical equipment or trees near powerlines. The materials provided also focus on how to use electrical appliances safely and correctly," David said.

A popular component of the program is the Essential Energy 'Be a Safety Star' poster competition which offers schools a chance to win one of three \$1,000 donations by creating a safety-inspired artwork.

"Following the popularity of last year's competition, we've extended the categories to three – Kindergarten-Year 2, Years 3-4 and Years 5-6 – to give more schools a chance to win a \$1,000 donation for their P&C Association to spend on a school safety improvement," David said.

Entries close on Friday, 13 October 2017 with entry forms available in the resource packs sent to registered schools or online at: essentialenergy.com.au/postercomp.

Last year's winning entry came from Hallidays Point Public School on the NSW Mid North Coast which used the prize money to purchase a defibrillator.

Relieving Principal Fiona Lewis said the purchase gave the school "peace of mind" knowing it is now better equipped to deal with a medical emergency.

"The Essential Energy competition is an excellent and engaging way of educating our students on key electricity safety messages," Fiona added.

For further information about Essential Energy's electricity safety teaching resources, visit: essentialenergy.com.au/education.

Media contact: Simone Plews

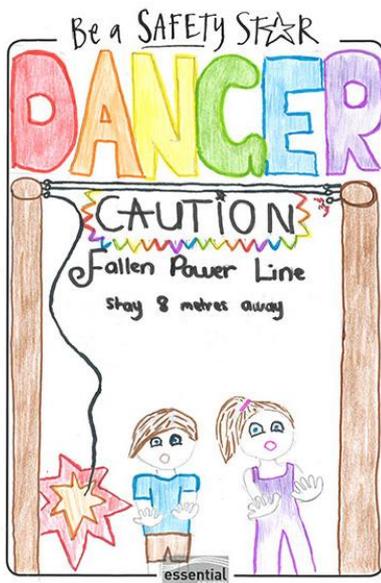
Corporate Media Manager, 02 6588 6733 or 0457 514 993

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.

Media Release



30 August 2017



Caption: The 2016 Essential Energy 'Be a Safety Star' Poster Competition winning entry by Olivia and Chelsea from Hallidays Point Public School.

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.