

Media Release



12 April 2018

Look up for overhead powerlines this harvest season

Essential Energy is reminding property owners to look above their heads for electrical infrastructure while harvest activities are underway across NSW.

General Manager Health, Safety and Environment, David Nardi, said Essential Energy has a range of tools available for those conducting agricultural activities to identify powerlines and improve their visibility on properties.

“Essential Energy’s overhead network maps show the general location of our assets and are a great guide to help reduce the risk of machinery coming into contact with wires,” David said.

Operators of headers, cotton module makers, harvesters, spray rigs and aircraft can request overhead electricity network maps via the online enquiry form at essentialenergy.com.au/overhead.

Essential Energy can also install markers on overhead powerlines, at a reasonable cost, to increase powerline visibility on properties. The powerline marker enquiry form is also available via the website.

“Overhead powerline heights can vary significantly with changing topology and weather conditions can also make lines sway in the wind or sag in the heat,” David said.

Pre-work risk assessments should be conducted in areas where harvest machinery is in use and staff and contractors taken through a safety induction on site prior to commencing work.

“To keep safe this cotton harvest, know the locations of powerlines, power poles and stay wires. Also, understand the correct emergency procedure if an electrical incident occurs,” David added.

If machinery does contact powerlines, operators should remain in the vehicle and call Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80** to disconnect supply. Bystanders should remain at least eight metres away from the powerlines and anything in contact with them.

For information about electricity and cotton farming, visit essentialenergy.com.au/agribusiness.

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.