

Media Release



22 January 2018

Aerial view helps keep network in top shape

Essential Energy will take to the skies in southern and northern NSW regions over the coming months to capture a snapshot of the condition of its electricity network as part of its asset inspection program.

From Monday 29 January 2018, a fixed wing plane will be used to identify damaged or deteriorating network assets and potential vegetation encroachments in Albury, Bathurst, Bega, Berrigan, Blanyney, Bombala, Boorowa, Braidwood, Canowindra, Coolamon, Cooma, Cootamundra, Corowa, Crookwell, Culcairn, Deniliquin, Goulburn, Griffith, Gundagai, Harden, Jindabyne, Junee, Lockhart, Molong, Moruya, Oberon, Orange, Queanbeyan, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Wagga and Yass.

General Manager Network Services, Luke Jenner, said the aerial patrols were part of Essential Energy's Bushfire Risk Management Plan and the data captured would help ensure the safety and reliability of the network.

"The program will inspect the pole top condition of 107,100 power poles across 14,788 kilometres of our network," Luke said.

"Aerial patrols are an effective way to view our network assets to assess if vegetation is encroaching on powerlines or whether pole top hardware is damaged or ageing."

"Essential Energy may also from time to time use drones to inspect the electricity network in areas that are sensitive or inaccessible using conventional methods," Luke added.

Property owners with sensitive animals should contact Essential Energy on **13 23 91** to organise notifications of the flyover so that alternative arrangements can be made prior to the aerial inspections.

If the inspections identify an issue with the network, Essential Energy will contact affected landholders and organise crews to attend and undertake any necessary repairs.

Follow Essential Energy on Facebook and Twitter for updates on aerial patrols or visit: essentialenergy.com.au/aerial for further information.

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.