

Media Release

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A new era for safety: Essential Energy launches Look Up and Live digital mapping app

Essential Energy has launched the Look Up and Live app across its footprint, empowering anyone working around or near the network with the tools and resources to plan for a safe operation.

Look Up and Live has made overhead powerline locations and imagery available to the public online, at no cost, via an interactive geospatial map. The app provides the ability to search locations in real time and to overlay maps with third party mapping programs, or print, as required.

Essential Energy's Head of Operations, Sarah Roche, said "The launch of Look Up and Live was brought forward in an effort to reduce safety incidents ahead of a bumper harvest across NSW."

"The new app will provide additional support to farmers to safely plan any work that needs to be undertaken around powerlines. We're hoping the new tool will help minimise contact with the network and reduce the risk of injury or death from electrocution, as well as damage to equipment and our electricity network."

Essential Energy has chosen to make its information available on Look Up and Live because of the app's track record of reducing safety incidents. For example, after the app's introduction, Energy Queensland experienced:

- a 25% reduction on total safety incident numbers
- a 35% reduction of overhead powerline contacts
- a 50% reduction of accidental contacts in the agricultural sector

Last Friday, Essential Energy convened a cross-industry workshop with stakeholders including NSW Farmers, GrainCorp, SafeWork NSW, Paraway Pastoral Co and the Aerial Application Association of Australia.

"The diversity of the group we brought together on Friday reflects our commitment to keep all people safe across the communities we operate in," Sarah said.

"We are extremely concerned about the number of electricity asset strikes we've had in recent weeks, and want to ensure that everyone on the land is aware of the resources and tools available for all operations to use to ensure a safe harvest."

"This new tool is easy to use, practical and ready to go right now. We encourage everyone working around or near the network to visit www.lookupandlive.com.au or search for 'Look Up and Live' on the App or Google Play store to plan for a safe operation."

FACT FILE:

- Essential Energy builds, operates and maintains one of Australia's largest electricity distribution networks, servicing 865,000 customers across regional, rural and remote NSW.
- Our footprint covers 95 percent of NSW, traversing 737,000 square kilometres of landmass with 183,612 km of powerline, 163,417 of those in designated bushfire zones.
- The network services more than 855,000 customers with approximately 4.6 customers to each kilometre of powerline, which is almost one-tenth the customer density compared with our counterparts in NSW.
- Essential Energy's footprint also includes 1.38 million power poles, equating to 1.6 power poles per customer.
- Essential Energy is proud to be the 2019 winner of the Australian Apprentices – Employer Award.

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