

Media release

27 November 2020



Safety and bushfire readiness report released

The latest electricity network safety report released by Essential Energy today, confirms the organisation's ongoing focus on safety. The Electricity Network Safety Management System Performance & Bushfire Preparedness Report also outlines the significant preparation activities to prepare the organisation for the 2020 bushfire season.

The latest Report sets out the annual safety performance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and the bushfire preparedness for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020. It provides details of incidents, vegetation management activities and the number of inspections undertaken. The reports also provide information on how Essential Energy has prepared for the bushfire season and highlights the importance of public safety campaigns to promote local community safety around the network, specifically targeting at-risk groups including the general public; transport; agribusiness and the building and construction industry.

The Electricity Network Safety Management System (ENSMS) is a framework of policies and plans in place to help manage the safety of Essential Energy's network, which covers 737,000 square kilometres across regional NSW and parts of southern Queensland. With a footprint that covers 95 per cent of NSW, the network overlaps with some of the highest risk bushfire zones in the State. Managing the risk of bushfires is an important part of keeping the network safe and reliable for the 865,000 customers and communities served by Essential Energy.

The reports can be found [here](#).

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 and parts of Southern Queensland.**
- **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 865,000 customers with approximately 5.1 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 nearly 1.6 power poles per customer.**

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