

Media release

29 November 2019



Essential Energy's network management plan confirms safety is number one priority

Essential Energy has published its annual report detailing the outcomes of processes that help improve safety across the network. The report demonstrates the significant preparation occurring for the 2019 bushfire season.

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. 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 855,000 customers and communities served by Essential Energy.

The current reports cover the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019 and provide 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.

The reports can be found [here](#)

FACT FILE:

- **Essential Energy builds, operates and maintains one of Australia's largest electricity distribution networks, servicing 855,000 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.**

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